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Hello...



WELL THIS IS ALL rather exciting, isn't it? What you're holding in your hands is a piece of history the first free issue of NME, the oldest, most famous and now, once

again, BIGGEST music magazine on Earth.

Whether or not you know that NME launched in 1952 as New Musical Express, reporting since then on the explosion of The Beatles and the birth of punk, Britpop and beyond, isn't important (though we're very proud of our incredible history).

What is important is that this is a magazine for 2015: relevant, entertaining, packed full of the things YOU want to read about, and - this is very significant - free.

So why Rihanna on the cover? Because Rihanna totally embodies the spirit of the new NME. She's individual, she's iconic and, as she tells us in our world exclusive interview, "I just have a way of breaking the rules..."

Enjoy. And long live NME.

MIKE WILLIAMS

Editor-in-Chief @itsmikelike

Read the NME verdict

on Lana Del Rey's new

album p42

COVER STORY

Rihanna

A world exclusive interview with the most rebellious pop star on the planet

FEATURES

34 The Big **Bang Theory**

How a comedy about nerds became the biggest show on TV

38 **Chyrches**

Taking down trolls with a band about to explode

SECTIONS







REGULARS

12 Peter Robinson Versus 18 Katherine Ryan 20 List For Life 22 What's On Your Headphones? 24 Things We Like 41 Best New Tracks 74 Soundtrack Of My Life

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GENDA

WHAT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THIS WEEK



LAST WEEK, THE LIBERTINES cancelled gigs in London and Manchester because of a "medical emergency" involving Pete Doherty.

This week, after assuring fans that he's safe and well. the band have revealed they will head out on their first-ever arena tour next January.

Speaking to NME, frontman Carl Barât stressed that while they are now a big-stage band after playing at Glastonbury and headlining Reading & Leeds

made their name in 2003.

"The whole point of The Libertines is intimacy and there being no barrier between the band and fans. If we lose that contact that wouldn't be The Libertines."

Barât also hinted there will be chances to catch them in sweatier surroundings, promising some "little things along the way".

Priority Tickets for The Libertines are available on Wednesday September 23 at 9am - 48 hours before general release. Search O2 Priority

Tour dates

Tickets go on general sale at 9am, Friday, Sept 25

Thurs, January 21, 2016 SSE Hydro Arena, Glasgow Sat 23 Arena, Manchester Mon 25 Capital FM Arena, Nottingham

Tue 26 Motorpoint Arena,

Wed 27 Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

Fri 29 BIC, Bournemouth Sat 30 O2 Arena, London band - that's a funny label."

Do you worry about Pete being clean and healthy? "I don't worry about health, just the addiction. I worry about what it is that makes a person go to the dark place."

Would you like to do a Libs film, like the NWA biopic? "We started writing a sitcom based on the time we lived in Camden Road. We didn't real ones were just bats**t."

AGENDA



"Sam Smith brought a sh**load of avocados to the studio"

Dance music megastars Disclosure talk through the main guests on their upcoming second album



WHO: Brit soul superstar, who appeared on 2013 single 'Latch' APPEARS ON: 'Omen' GUY LAWRENCE: "We're not just making music again because Sam has got big, we're doing it because we're a great team. Sam was on some crazy diet so he brought a sh**load of avocados."



WHO: NYC neo-soul duo
APPEAR ON: 'Hourglass'
GUY: "Lion Babe are a brand
new act consisting of a singer,
Jillian, and a producer, Lucas."
HOWARD LAWRENCE: "The
song is about feeling sad about
getting old. It was cool to write
it even though none of us are
facing it right now."



WHO: New Zealand's chartsmashing 'Royals' phenomenon APPEARS ON: 'Magnets' HOWARD: "She tweeted a photo of us getting milkshakes near the studio."

GUY: "She did it once when we'd pretty much finished. It's cool. It got people excited."



Gregory Porter
WHO: Grammy-winning US jazzer
APPEARS ON: 'Holding On'
GUY: "Our manager suggested
we write a soul song. I asked
Howard who has the most soulful
voice right now and he said
Gregory. He's like a big teddy bear
and his hat is like Darth Vader's
mask. I don't think it comes off."



WHO: Laptop R&B pioneer, real name Abel Tesfaye

APPEARS ON: 'Nocturnal' GUY: "We wrote 'Nocturnal' in Jungle City studios, which has a panoramic view of Manhattan and the sunset was banging. Abel was a safe dude. We pushed him to go as high as he possibly could."



WHO: 'Love + War' hitmaker APPEARS ON: 'Willing & Able' GUY: "Kwabs was a pro, peaceful, super zen, but once you get him talking..."

HOWARD: "He came out of his shell so fast, within two minutes of the session ending he'd asked me to dogsit for him."



WHO: US R&B superstar
APPEARS ON: 'Good Intentions'
GUY: "He was born to be a
star, but he leaves all that sh*t at
the door. He was a real pro and
recorded every word separately.
He turned up in standard all black,
quite a bit of jewellery, pretty big
sunglasses, looking sick."



Last W33K IN NUMBERS



24

Hours the UK release of Star Wars: The Force Awakens has been brought forward. The force will now awaken on December 17.



4

Times Madonna spanked Diplo after bringing the Major Lazer DJ onstage on the first night of her Rebel Heart tour in Montreal.



Fans Muse bombarded at an intimate show at ondon's Electric Ballroom

at an intimate show at London's Electric Ballroom before announcing an epic arena tour for April 2016.



£4,250
Cost of Pete Doherty's
33-page journal – written
while incarcerated at

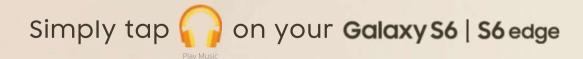
Wandsworth Prison

in 2003. Bargain!

CHARLES HOWELLS TAYLOR, WENN, MISHA DISCLOSURE WORDS: BEN HOMEWOOD, WWW.PETERHARRINGTON.CO.UK, EMMA VIOLA LILJA,



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Ch-ch-changes

Check out Bowie's best looks from the period covered in new boxset 'Five Years: 1969-1973'...



SPACE DAVE 1969-70 Who: After his dalliance with mod, David

Bowie went sci-fi, inspired by Stanley Kubrick's 2001: A Space Odyssey.

Biggest moment: Recording 1969's landmark space-rock album 'Space Oddity'.



ZIGGY STARDUST 1972-73 Who: Fabulous, androgynous

rock star based on Iggy Pop and Vince Taylor. Biggest moment: The

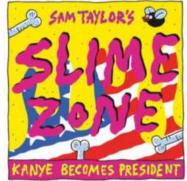
electrifying 'retirement' gig at London's Hammersmith Odeon on July 3, 1973.

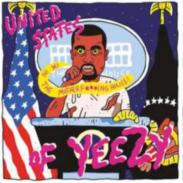


ALADDIN SANE 1973 Who: "Ziggy goes to

America", according to Bowie. The outré make-up represented conflict.

Biggest moment: The lead single was one of Bowie's biggest: 'The Jean Genie'.











The Japanese trio are the wildest spectacle in rock right now. But who – and what – are they?

BABIES. METAL. TWO words which, when combined, result in either a visit from child services or the Japanese cute-rock phenomenon that proved the surprise hit of this year's Reading & Leeds. Three teenage cyberpunks doing synchronised dance routines in front of a thrash band of ghouls, zombies and psychopaths, they amused the internet with their 2011 video 'Doki Doki Morning', became a worldwide hit with last year's self-titled debut album and now have a show at SSE Arena Wembley on the books. The trio are the weirdest and wildest spectacle in rock right now - and here's why.

There's a made-up origin story

It takes place in "a heavy metal galaxy far, far away", and involves a "metal resistance" beholden to a shadowy "Fox God" whom singers Su-metal, Yuimetal and Moametal honour with vulpine hand-signs. It's manga meets metal meets Game Of Thrones. Meanwhile, on Earth, the band was put together by a talent agency spotting a hitherto unexplored market in combining thrash metal with J-pop.

They dance like maniacs

Performing live, the three Babymetallers sprint across the stage, conduct martial arts-informed play fights and throw synchronised tantrums to the likes of 'Babymetal Death'. It's like Little Mix possessed by Slipknot.

They're not exactly Slayer fans

Neither Yuimetal or Moametal knew anything about the genre before joining the band.

There are great merchandising opportunities

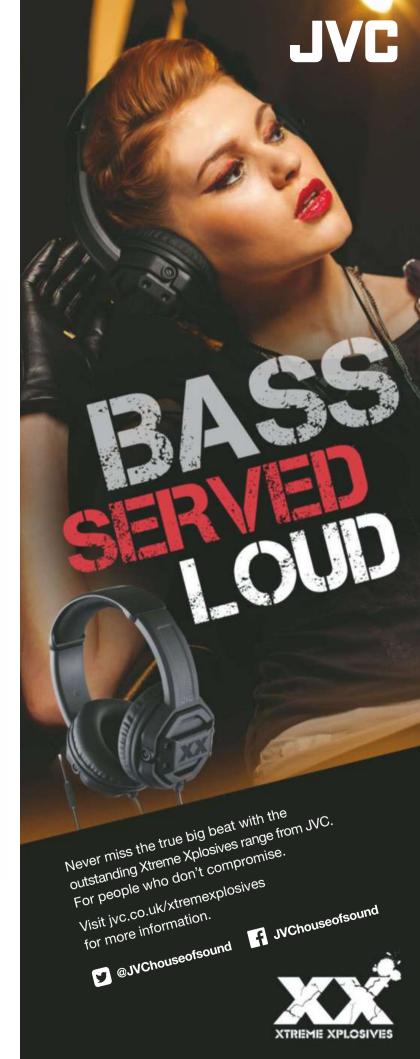
There's a song called 'Head Bangya!!' about a magic neck corset that turns you into a rabid headbanger. Yes please.

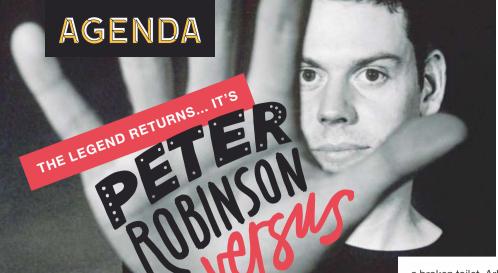
They're a force for change

Midway through their set they air an anti-bullying manifesto. When the girls pick up flags and stand at the front of the stage yelling, "Resistance! Forever!", they come across like a pint-sized Pussy Riot.

Babymetal play SSE Arena Wembley on April 2, 2016. Tickets are on sale now







John Lydon

Sex Pistol, butter flogger, PiL popper, jungle dweller



ANARCHY

Despite calling for 'Anarchy In The UK' on the 1976 Sex Pistols single, it's an idea John now describes as "really rather pointless".

GRUNDY, BILL

The deceased TV presenter infamously taunted the Sex Pistols on ITV's shortlived Today show in 1976.

The hugely influential band John's been in since 1978, who released their 10th album, 'What The World Needs Now', this month.

Hello, John. What can you see out of the nearest window?

I can see an overgrown hedge. But it's a very nice overgrown hedge.

For anyone who's picked up a copy of NME for the first time, can you explain what it's all about?

You've got a good tractor section.

Are you trying to plug butter again? "I'm in my

No! Unfortunately when I opened the door on butter I walked in on 'butter wars' fbetween UK and New Zealand butter manufacturers]. That

was very weird. Who on earth but me could start a butter war?

But you increased butter sales by an impressive 85 per cent. I mean it was a good advert but it wasn't that good.

Well it was that good, because I was in it.

Was NME always better when you were in it?

I always rated it. Some of the writers, of course, were complete monkeyholes, but who cares? They come and go — but me, I'm a joy forever. I have sustainability.

The opening lines on your new album concern a broken toilet...

Anyone who's ever had a domestic dispute will recognise that.

I was going to ask if it was a metaphor, but you're literally singing about a broken toilet? It could be of use to the UN but it really is about an argument over

a broken toilet. Arbitration came in the form of a plumber. This is what happens when you've installed a toilet all on your own four years earlier: it sets a precedent.

You installed your own toilet?

Yes. This is what created the expectation that I would fix it. I'm in my bathroom now. I'm having a wee-wee

You named Sid Vicious after your pet hamster. My pet hamster is called Mr Potato. Would that have had the same impact?

It might do. It would sum up

bathroom

now. I'm

having a

wee-wee"

modern-day punk perfectly. The original idea came from Svd Barrett, and I passed the tradition on via a little white fluffy thing.

After calling Russell Brand a bumhole for

urging people not to vote, what do you make of his decision to take a step back and learn more about the situation?

It should be applauded that he wants to justify some of those unreasonable points of view of his. Very good.

I quite like the idea of someone famous going, "Actually, I don't know what I'm talking about, I'll get back to you."

That's quite brave of him. I'll stand up for him in that respect. Anybody who knows they talk rubbish should be able to fess up to it. He's earned some serious respect from me there.

Have you finished weeing now?

What have you changed? My underpants.

> Read more Peter Robinson Versus on NME.com





Jeremy Corbyn

A landslide victory means the bearded wonder is the new leader of the Labour Party.



Motörhead

Lemmy may be poorly, but he's still giving out good vibes - his band just launched a range of sex toys.



Superman Batman v Superman director Zack Snyder says his superhero mash-up will focus primarily on Batman.



The former X Factor judge was arrested on suspicion of drink driving after crashing her Ferrari in north London.







FRENCH CONNECTION

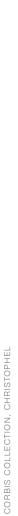
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NETWORKS,

AHS' stomach-

churnina highlights

The Evil Santa AHS: Asylum

Like Santa, the man formerly known as Lovejoy (British actor Ian McShane) arrives on Christmas Eve. Unlike Santa, he pistol whips, makes sinister jokes about 'Santa's sack' and commits more unspeakable acts.

The Frankenstein Baby

abortion clinic. Proprietor

to build himself a new son

out of the spare baby parts

in the lab, creating the truly

horrifying Infantata.

Homemade Minotaur

Kathy Bates' immortal

her slaves. Then she

socialite Delphine LaLaurie

decides to create her very

own DIY minotaur - from

hollowed-out bull's head.

one of them adorned with a

already tortures and murders

AHS: Coven

Charles Montgomery decides

AHS: Murder House Turns out the haunted house in series one was an illegal



The 'Poker Face' singer has already started filming her scenes for the fifth series of

AS FAR AS DEMENTED televisual moments go, Ryan Murphy and Brad Falchuk's anthology series American Horror Story has stuffed more utter derangement into its four years of existence than is

the gothic TV show

strictly decent. Soon to join the mania is Lady Gaga, who'll be playing, according to Murphy, "a wealthy social doyenne who is consumed with art and fashion and people" in the new series which premieres on FX on October 20. Not a huge stretch, then...

American Horror Story: Hotel starts on FX on October 20



New bands list was pared down to just 84. burn rubber

Emerging acts to record in 12 iconic studios for **Converse Rubber Tracks**

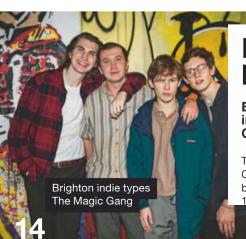
THE FULL LINE-UP FOR 2015's Converse Rubber Tracks has been announced. From the 10,000 acts that registered, the

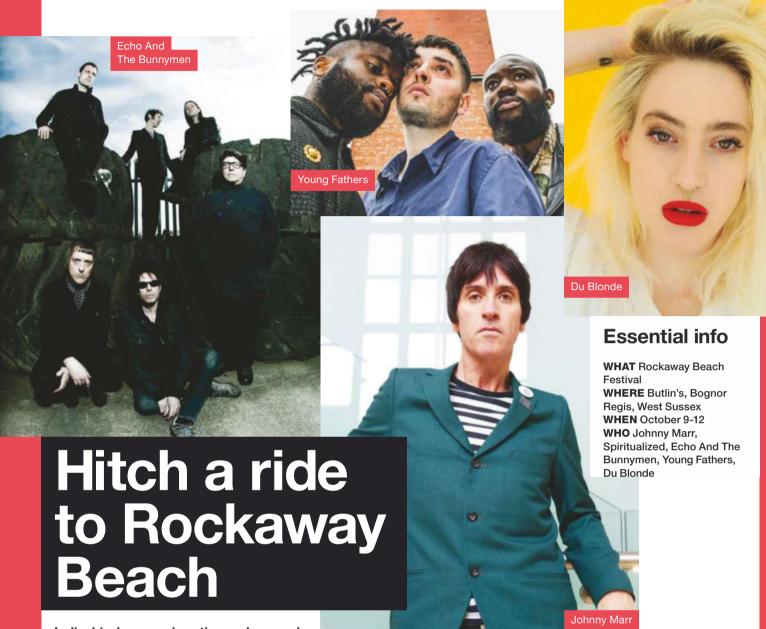
while rapper A2 records at OutKast's Stankonia Studios in Atlanta. Singer Denai Moore,

at Abbey Road Studios.

Brighton's The Magic Gang are off to Tuff Gong in Jamaica east London's Azekel and psych wizards Phobophobes all record

For more information go to converse-music.com





Indie, hip-hop, pool parties and no mud at the festival circuit's newest addition

hought festival season was over? Think again. The first ever Rockaway Beach takes place on October 9-12 at Butlin's in Bognor Regis, and it looks brilliant.

Headed up by Johnny Marr, Spiritualized and Echo And The Bunnymen, the indoor festival's eclectic line-up runs the gamut from indie legends and hip-hop trailblazers to experimental icons and alternative up-and-comers. Public Service Broadcasting, Young Fathers, The Fall, Ghostpoet, Du Blonde, Nadine Shah and Errors

With music 'til 2am, it lasts longer than your average UK festival

are among those playing the indoor stages, and there'll be a live set from electro wiz James Holden too.

With music running 'til 2am each night, it lasts longer than your average UK festival. And there are pool parties, a cinema and a silent disco to keep you busy, as well as a funfair, arcade and waterpark.

Wellies won't be needed, as your ticket includes three nights' accommodation. Choose from a hotel room, a beachside chalet or an apartment, all of which have a bed, shower and your own toilet to call your own. No weeping into a wet wipe in a freezing cold tent at 3am at Rockaway Beach. Head to page 73 for the full line up.

NME LAUNCH EXCLUSIVE! 30% off your ticket

Autumn is a perfectly acceptable time to hit the beach. So go to bigweekends.com or call 0330 100 9742 and use the code NME to get your whopping discount. For full terms and conditions go to butlins.com/terms



Another day, another Kurt conspiracy

New film Soaked In Bleach makes some fresh accusations about the Nirvana frontman's suicide

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THERE are still people in the world who believe Kurt Cobain was murdered. The latest theorist to climb aboard the conspiracy train is director Benjamin Statler, who sold his house to fund new film Soaked In Bleach, out Oct 19.

In it, he presents theories based on material aathered by private investigator Tom Grant. Here are the main points:

Benjamin Statler, SIB director



Courtney Love was going to divorce Kurt

The film alleges that Courtney Love believed her husband was having affairs and had asked their entertainment lawyer Rosemary Carroll to find "the meanest, most vicious divorce lawyer". Carroll, meanwhile, claims Cobain had asked her to remove Love from his will a month before his death. STATLER SAYS: "It was in

process, legal things take a while."

Her private investigator didn't trust her

Detective Tom Grant was hired by Courtney Love to find her missing husband, who had checked out of rehab days before his body was found at their Seattle home on April 8, 1994. Suspicious of Courtney's motives, Grant taped their conversations. Courtney has delivered a cease-and-desist order on Soaked In Bleach on the grounds that it is defamatory and filled with "baseless theories". Courtney's lawyers set out why she could not be responsible for Kurt's death, stating that the film "falsely presents a widely and repeatedly debunked conspiracy theory that accuses Ms Cobain of orchestrating the death of her husband Kurt Cobain".

STATLER SAYS: "I went to Tom Grant's website and there was a mountain of information."

Kurt would have been too wasted to pull the trigger

According to toxicology reports, the blood in Cobain's body was

found to contain three times the lethal amount of heroin for a heavy drug user, which would have rendered him incapacitated. There's a counter-argument: with Kurt's high tolerance, the heroin may not have taken effect straight away, even such a heavy dose.

STATLER SAYS: "The toxicology report is the main spark that inspired me to make this movie. It's impossible that he could have done all of those things [put away his needles and shot himself] with that amount of heroin in his system."

The position of the shotgun shell isn't correct

When setting up a re-creation of the death for the film, the production crew believe they made an important discovery. Kurt was found holding the shotgun upside down on his chest, but the empty shell was found on the left of Kurt's body, when it should have been expelled to the right.

STATLER SAYS:

"That defies physics."

The handwriting on Kurt's suicide note varies

The film suggests that the note left by Kurt was altered to include lines about Frances Bean, the couple's daughter. Others note that many of Kurt's journals are written in changeable handwriting.

STATLER SAYS: "We consulted with experts and their conclusion is that the bottom four lines don't match the body of the note."

Smells like old nonsense?



Tom Howard, NME's resident Cobain nutter, gives his verdict

"The position of the shotgun shell thing is an interesting slice of new info, but the rest just sounds like the same old rubbish. Can't we all stop worrying and just listen

Rock'n'roll's maddest conspiracy theories

Maybe they're true. But they're definitely not true



Likelihood: 0/10



THE CIA KILLED LENNON The theory: Mark Chapman was hired by US intelligence. Likelihood: 0/10



ELVIS IS ALIVE The theory: He faked his death and is now living in Margate. Likelihood: 0/10



HIP-HOP ILLUMINATI The theory: Jay Z and Beyoncé are heads of the secret society. Likelihood: 0/10

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Commitment

his week, my very first boyfriend requested me on Facebook and the calm tingling of quiet victory came over me. After all these years, I had won. Did he think I'd just 'forget' about how he dumped me to play Lego with Natasha? This man's virtual handshake will hang in the balance of Facebook notification purgatory for as long as I can hold a grudge, which is forever. Know this, friends: My long game is a strong game. I am not adding him. Some might call me stubborn or petty (borderline psychopathic would be too far) but this is exactly the kind of commitment that has always inspired me. I think commitment is inextricably linked with success,

and rightly or

with a fierce

wrongly, people

commitment to

their goals - the Kanve Wests of

really entertaining.

Examples in hip-hop: 50 Cent showed a great deal of commitment to his lyrical battle with Rick Ross when he released a sex tape featuring the mother of Ross' child. 50 was court-ordered to pay the woman \$5million in damages and has coincidentally filed for bankruptcy instead. He'll get away with it too, because apparently "bitch" really "can't get

"The portrayal of women in hip-hop has long been unkind"

a dollar out of me". That's one committed pr*ck.

Original gangster rapper, Ice-T, is expecting a baby with the incredible Nicole 'Coco' Austin, a strong candidate for the best cartoon hip-hop wife in the world, ever. Famous in her own right as a fitness model and entrepreneur, Coco gets up early every morning to clean and organise her husband's entire life. While squatting. In heels. Her bottom is bigger and better than a whole extended family of objectified Kardashian ass, and this lady works for it. Coco looks like she could actually take a bullet and live! Making the most of that rump is her full-time job, and it's her impressive level of commitment to it that's earned her the promotion to 'womb'. In a recent interview, Coco credited the success of her 13-year marriage to submissiveness, stating, "I am a slave to him." Not a modern-day suffragette then, but you've got to at least respect her unwavering enthusiasm.

The portrayal of women in hip-hop has long been flagrantly unkind. The '90s saw the meteoric rise of 'The VideHo', a decorative gal whose purpose is to simulate

leader, the ubiquitous VideHo of her generation is Karrine Steffans. I highly recommend reading the book Confessions Of A Video Vixen. In it, Karrine candidly details her history of abuse, relationships with famous rappers, married men, and the time she got jiggy with a rapper for more airtime in one of his music videos. It is, in my opinion, one of the most underrated and entertaining pieces of literature available today.

I love that Karrine trolled her own industry. I feel as though nobody else tells that story. Hip-hop is a layered and complex movement, and it's important that there's a voice from her angle. There's even a chapter about Ol' Dirty Bastard. Now that's commitment. As Karrine says, "May his big ol' d*ck rest in peace."

Katherine Ryan's high five

Five times Azealia Banks was awesome

When it came out that a chapter president of the National Association For The Advancement of Colored People pretended to be black, Azealia accused her of "weird racial fetishism". Yep.

Madame Tussauds unveiled their Nicki Minaj sculpture, which had her on all fours with her butt in the air. Visitors posed for pics humping it or touching it up. Banks' reaction: I told you so.

She's very vocal about cultural appropriation in music and thinks that she deserves more industry recognition than some others. (Why does Iggy Azalea rap that way?)

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump congratulated himself for making the cover of Time magazine. Banks helpfully pointed out to him that "so did Hitler".

"I don't care what you think because you'll all be dead one day." Azealia Banks



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BECAUSE EVERYONE LOVES A LIST

10 best costumes from Bestival



1 Lonely Hearts Club gang

Clare Thomson, London

"Bestival's fancy dress theme this year was Summer of Love. So we Googled it and The Beatles' 'Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band' came up. Turns out the LP was released in the same year."



2 Bug-eyed

Karl Swallow, London

"I'm kind of a bug on a toadstool but you would never want to eat me."



3 Busman's holiday

Mike Reed, Isle of Wight

"I made this Volkswagen camper van – which was obviously an iconic car from that time – out of papier mâché, PVA glue and kitchen paint."



4 Gardeners' world

Claire Maton, London

"Flower power! The dancing flowers we brainstormed as we all used to love them as kids."



5 Sweeties

Helen Newberry, Keith Scobell, Ase Auguston and Daniel Molin, London

"We didn't want to come as hippies because we look like that normally, so we thought outside the box and went for Love Hearts. I made all the hats myself."



6 Pod power

Claire Burgess, Paul Skulnick and Janine Skulnick, Essex "We're all about peas and love and we're gonna get frozen later."



7 Sweeties v2.0

Lucie Nugent, Manchester
"We all had the exact same dream
and woke up at the exact same
time with the exact same idea.
Actually, the truth is, we were
doing a hula hoop competition
at Notting Hill Carnival and it



8 Bucket head

Vince Luff, Maidenhead

suddenly came to us."

"I think in pink. This costume was created using Poundland's finest pink goods."



9 Technicolor dreamcoat

Tiger Winfield, London

"We call our crew the Confetti Crowd. We all like to wear bright colours and sparkles and make fashion fun."



10 Head boys

Dylan Sanders, London
"We're trying to raise awareness
that penises have emotions too
– we made these ourselves."

For the full gallery, head to NME.com



A report from the rumour mill

The follow-up to Adele's 30 million copy-selling album '21' will finally see the light of day this year. But who's she been working on it with? Here are a few of the big names being bandied around...



DAMON ALBARN "I took the time

"I took the time out for her," he told *The Sun*.

"I don't think she'll use any of the stuff. Let's wait and see."



PHARRELL
The 'Happy'
star, who said
he'd written
with her in

June, said "she opens her diary, then disappears off with her beautiful boy".



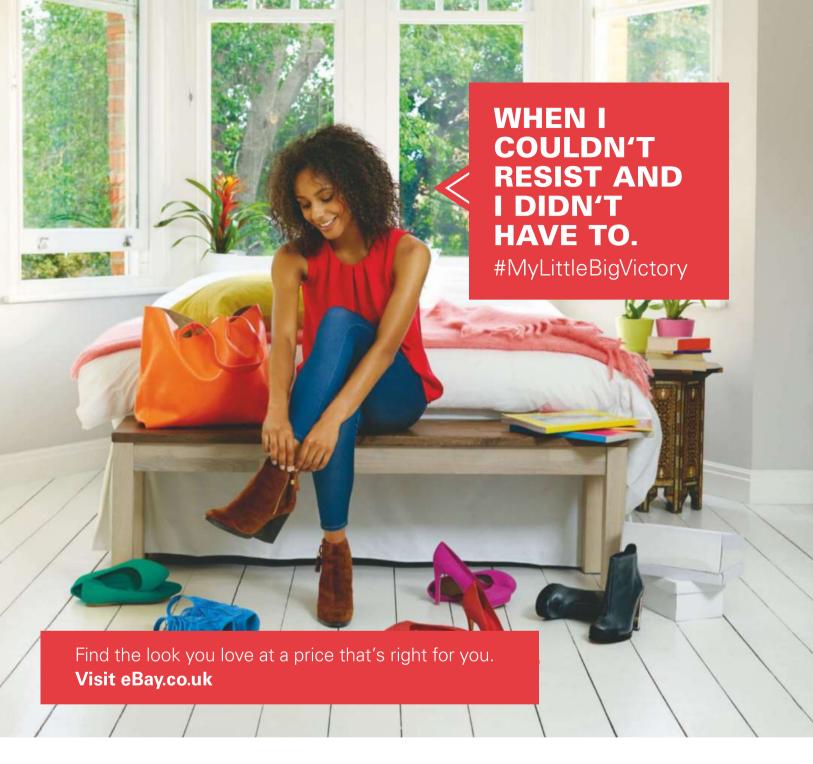
SIA Sia's new song 'Alive' was written with Adele

and originally intended for Adele's record. Is there more to come?



LADY GAGA These two posted a selfie on Instagram

in January. Have they worked together? Stranger things have happened...





Dresses selling for £10.79



Shoes selling for £16.84



Bags selling for £22.71



Jewellery selling for £12.05



AGENDA

YOUR TOWN. YOUR MUSIC. YOUR STYLE

What's ON YORK HEAD PHOTIES?

Manchester

Chris Butler > 35. artist

Listening to:

WE ARE WILLOW

Black & White

"We Are Willow is a Manchester-based collaborative music and art collective that I'm a part of."

Wearing: Vans plimsolls, Gap jeans, Primark T-shirt, brown cord charity shop shirt, lumberjack jacket from a Brooklyn thrift store.

Best thing about

Manchester: "Fallowfield Loop bike rides and The Nursery Inn on Heaton Moor."



Listening to:

FLAKO

Hole In The Dark

"Flako is one of my favourite producers at the moment. He makes chaos sound beautiful."

Wearing: YMC top, Carhartt shorts, Adidas Stan Smith trainers. Best thing about Manchester: "It's small enough to feel like home but big enough to discover it all over again."



⟨ Penelope Armstrong 27, designer

Listening to:

ERYKAH BADU Appletree

"There's a song of hers for any mood you're in. She's

completely unique."

Wearing: Denim coat from Korea, Primark top, H&M trousers and sandals.

Best thing about

Manchester: "Its amazing music culture; I used to love record shopping at Piccadilly Records with my dad."

Jamie-Leigh Hargreaves > 31, freelance PR

Listening to:

MICACHU & THE SHAPES Good Sad Happy Bad

"Mica Levi is the most amazing talent."

Wearing: Mango dress, H&M necklace. Best thing about

Manchester: "Everyone is supportive and very giving."

> For the full gallery head to NME.com







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Dresses selling for £10.79



Shoes selling for £16.84



Bags selling for £22.71



AGENDA



THIS WEEK'S OBJECTS OF DESIRE



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who returns seeking revenge

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it up again with these new
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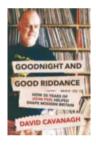
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Riddance explores the late
DJ's place in UK culture
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Cool runnings
The Asics Tiger GEL-Lyte IIIs
feature reflective detailing so
you can be seen in the dark
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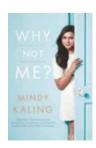
Run the jewels
The Lucky Dice Ring is
studded with black Swarovski
crystal dots
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class with this classic black
leather Tokyo travel bag
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Sports chic
Beat off the September chill
with this warm and cosy
Ellesse Mandial 2 jacket
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Mindy's other project Mindy Kaling talks love, friendship, work and body image in Why Not Me? £9.09 amazon.co.uk



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finds on a colourful Crosley
Cruiser Record Player
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Every single one
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AND LASTS. AND LASTS. AND LASTS.

AND YOU GET THE IDEA.









FEEL JUST-SHAVED SMOOTH ALL DAY)
FLEXBALL + GEL WITH SKINCARE





Rihanna is more than a superstar. She's the ultimate icon of the digital age. She's had more Number One singles in 10 years than Madonna has managed in three decades, and she's now the First Lady of the new free *NME*. **Peter Robinson** went to LA to hang out with pop's biggest rebel

PHOTOGRAPHY MATT SALACUSE ILLUSTRATIONS KATE MOROSS

HE'S THE FIRST artist to shift 100m digital singles; Vogue calls her the world's most exciting fashion muse; in music, her varied collaborators are an A-list dream

team, from Drake, Paul McCartney and Coldplay to Eminem, Kanye and Nicki Minaj. Rihanna is, therefore, a person who can afford to run to her own schedule. It's approaching midnight when she sits down with *NME* in the low-lit upstairs room of an LA photo studio.

It's been a long day. We first meet during the afternoon, and while it's hard to predict how a Rihanna greeting might unfold, *NME* isn't quite prepared for the breezy stride into the room, the smiley "Hi!", the hug and the high five. "I'm off!" she then declares grandly, waving her arm around her head, "to transform!"

She disappears into the room next door. At another shoot down the corridor Will Ferrell comes and goes, but not before popping in to say hi to Rihanna.

When Rihanna reappears, she does so with a melodramatic, pre-emptive cry of "Finally!", but it's fine: waiting a few hours is fine for Rihanna.

Between 2005 and 2012 Rihanna released or re-released at least one album a year, every year. Then in 2013 something strange happened: no Rihanna "I take risks because I get bored – and I get bored very easily..."

album. But at least it's finished, right?

"It's not done!" Rihanna chortles. By now she's curled up on a sofa and draped in an oversized green bomber jacket. "To me it's never done until it's *done*. Until the *final moment*."

So her eighth album proper doesn't yet have a tracklisting ("I have so many songs I love – and they're so different – that it's hard to actually put them all on the same album").

And there's no title yet – Rihanna's whittled it down to two, but acknowledges that fans will probably always call it 'R8', the name they've given it in the absence of concrete information. "No matter what I post online, within three comments there's somebody saying, 'Where is 'R8'?'" She cackles. "I could post anything. Nothing else matters. They don't care about anything but that."

The problem here, *NME* proposes, is that 50m Twitter followers are on a hair-trigger waiting for an album, "I know!" she laughs. She seems to be enjoying this a little too much for *NME*'s liking. "But it makes me excited, because

I can't wait to give them something great."

It's not just Rihanna's schedule that needs to accommodate the project's completion: earlier this year Kanye West announced he was exec producing the album, and tonight Rihanna confirms the continued involvement of the potential President Of The United States. "Kanye definitely wanted to be involved in making the album," she explains. "So he did start helping me make it. Now we just have to wait to get back in the studio together. His schedule and mine are totally opposite right now, but I think this month we'll be back in the studio."

With pop culture moving faster than ever, it might seem hazardous to leave such a gap between major releases. But Rihanna's career is peppered with moments that others may have considered risky, so NME asks her to consider her need to take risks when so many of her peers seem

to succeed by playing safe. "I take risks because I get bored," she shrugs. "And I get bored *very* easily."

She tells the story of when she and her best girlfriend were 11-year-old army

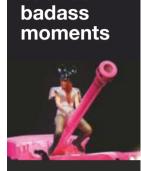
cadets, growing up in Barbados. "We'd have to give trouble in order to enjoy this discipline we were getting," she remembers. "And we'd refuse to do push-ups when we were punished. It was a question of: why just do it? It was so boring to follow the rules."

Rihanna left Barbados for New York before the cadets could kick her out; Jay Z signed her the day he met her. Ten years down the line. Rihanna's ambition for her next album is that it works, in the way some of her previous releases haven't, like a 'proper' album. "It's easy to make an album full of great songs," is how she puts it, and that's a fair point: as well as being fashion's most exciting muse, Rihanna is now also the ultimate muse for the planet's greatest songwriters and producers. "But I want people to go for the ride. The songs have to make sense together."

She smiles when NME points out that the three singles so far - 'American Oxygen', 'Four Five Seconds', 'Bitch Better Have My Money' - are wildly diverse. "I know," she says. "I know!" And then she laughs uproariously. Rihanna's impossible-tosecond-guessness is all very well, but this just feels like trolling. She giggles. "Maybe a little bit." Then she laughs again. "But I love what I love, and these songs each have their own demeanour, and the videos reflect the character of each song. I want every video to take you on a different journey. A different ride."

And some of those videos, as we learned this summer, offer rides to quite unexpected locations.

In July Rihanna's 'Bitch Better Have My Money' video appeared online. It contained scenes



Badgalriri's

baddest

Straddling a pink tank

For crowd members oblivious to the subtle symbolism, 2010's Last Girl On Earth tour also saw Rihanna straddling a male audience member.



Shark attack!

Rihanna appeared on the cover of *Harper's Bazaar* magazine earlier this year. Impressive, but was she wearing a T-shirt with the magazine's price printed on it?



Upsetting a farmer

Filming 'We Found Love' in Northern Ireland, Rihanna upset Alan Graham and his wife. "The behaviour was getting more inappropriate... We are Christians."



RIHANNA

of kidnap, torture, drugs, murder, nudity and beach inflatables. Naturally the sevenminute mini-movie prompted internet meltdown, with thinkpieces flying in from all quarters.

"I wanted people to feel like they'd got more than they'd expected," Rihanna says today. And they certainly got that, *NME* confirms. "Yeah," she chortles. "But not in a shocking way – in the sense of 'wow, this is a real mini-movie'. You know? I wanted to go deeper. Mostly what I wanted was for people to *get it.*"

Was Rihanna happy with how people responded? "I was very happy with the reaction," she states. "Very happy."

There's a quizzical smile on her face as if she doesn't quite understand what NME's getting at. So what, then, does she think of observations that the video - in which Rihanna and friends torture a naked woman to punish her fully-clothed husband - is anti-feminist? A full-force Rihanna eyeroll is something to behold, and here one comes. "Well I mean now we're reaching," she tuts. Throughout our interview Rihanna speaks softly: she doesn't raise her voice; she won't swear once. But she means every word she says. "I didn't think about anything that had to do with that. Wow. And at the end of the day the women won. The bitch was the man. So I'm confused. Those are the people that didn't get it. I'm not worried about those people. This was not a woman empowerment video. I was making a piece of art."

In the post-Gaga pop era it often seems that the only 'acceptable' message for existing or trainee pop icons is one of positivity, with that lucrative role model status baked into an artist's persona at boardroom level. But Rihanna seems to thrive by keeping people at arm's length, and it's strange – if exciting – that in 2015 Rihanna and an artist like Taylor Swift share the same pop sphere.

"Er, I doubt it," is Rihanna's response



The paparazzi take pictures of every good move, wrong move, awkward move"

when asked if she'd accept an invitation to become the latest in a long succession of artists to join Swift on stage. "I don't think I would. I just don't think it makes sense. I don't think our brands are the same: I don't think they match, I don't think our audiences are the same. In my mind *she*'s a role model, I'm not." She adds, with a smile.

Rihanna's star persona has long since surpassed the base elements many once considered part and parcel of pop stardom, and at the heart of this is the assumption that pop music is for kids, a concept that seems more outdated than ever in an era when Justin Bieber's making music with Diplo and Skrillex.

"I can't make a song for a particular person or demographic," Rihanna reasons. "If I love it, I'm gonna do it. I have to perform it for the rest of my life. A song is like a tattoo – you can never get away from it. You can't stand behind something you don't believe in. You can pretend for a little while, but there's always going to be resentment. I can be who I am and sleep at night, knowing there's no pressure to be anything else."

We talk about how Rihanna hopes her life will pan out: she pictures herself as an 80-year-old lady, covered in tattoos, sitting on the beach with grandchildren playing nearby. "When I see myself as

an old woman, I just think about being happy," she smiles. "And hopefully, I'll still be fly."

It might seem that only in recent years has the Rihanna who often says no has eclipsed the Rihanna who frequently said yes, but she casts her mind back eight years when she tells *NME* tonight about the first time in her career that she felt powerful.

Rihanna on...

Kanye West

"I love watching him perform. Kanye's a huge artist."

Her early singles being chosen by children

'I'd play my songs to my A&R's kids and see which ones they'd react to! They were three years old. Kids just love great melodies."



America

"You come here and there's so much opportunity. There are a lot of great things, but there are also a lot of horrible things that have happened – and are still happening to this day. You can't ignore either of them."

What she sees in the mirror

"I don't look at myself in the mirror a lot of times. Sometimes I'll wake up in make-up from the night before, completely forget, and just go about my morning."







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TOPMAN



"In my mind Taylor Swift is a role model. I'm completely not"

By 2007 Rihanna's first two albums had established her as an unimpeachable pop princess on the periphery of the bigtime, but for her third she felt she needed to change. So the night before she shot the cover for 'Good Girl Gone Bad', she cut her hair. "We sent [the label] the images. Their reaction was, 'These are way too edgy. What are we going to do with these? We can't use these.' But the photoshoot was done. And we weren't going to do it again." The accompanying music featured the former high school beauty queen likening love to rehab and burning some bloke's house down. "I had to rebel and do it my way," she remembers. "And I had to jump ship in order to achieve that. Without permission."

That might all sound quaint compared

with what would come later, but back in 2007 Rihanna was changing the course of her own career, and within a year she'd become a superstar. "I just have a way of breaking the rules even when I don't intend to," she reasons. "You have to let people be who they are - you have to believe that that's going to be the best version of them."

But a bigger shift was still to come when Rihanna followed that hit album by throwing a potential tyre shredder across the road in the shape of the downbeat, dark and reflective 'Rated R'. The album raised eyebrows at the record label, where industry legend LA Reid was concerned about Rihanna's new direction. "He told me, 'I'm not gonna lie, I'm really scared about this." Rihanna remembers. "But he also said: 'You have to make this album.' He felt me bleeding through the music."

'Rated R' was the masterpiece that birthed the Rihanna we know today: a brutal album teeming with disenchantment and uncertainty, with stark, monochrome imagery to match. "It was a time in my life where I felt vulnerable and naked," Rihanna admits. "I felt like the world was watching and that there was a spotlight on me. I felt confused. I knew I couldn't make a happy album. It was like: it's not the truth. It's not real. I know I won't feel like this forever, but this is how I feel right now."

Today, as Rihanna talks about aspects of her life, it seems the spotlight that shone so brightly during the 'Rated R' period still stings her eyes. "You kinda... Just don't deal with it," she sighs. "It's hard. So I don't deal with it. Every time there's paparazzi pulling up outside the building there's anxiety. I can't say I'm numb to it, because it never feels normal." She thinks for a moment. "But it's not surprising, either."

Music's most epic publicity



Pon de runway To promote her seventh album Rihanna chartered a plane to take 150 journalists to seven countries for seven shows in seven days. Cabin fever set in...



King of flotsam In 1995, with greatest hits album 'HIStory' to promote, Michael Jackson decided to float a massive. 32-foot-tall statue of himself down the River Thames.



Desert storm Announcing her Vegas residency in 2013, Britney Spears hired 1,350 lookalikes for a 4am launch in the middle of the desert. Britney was sick in the helicopter.

admission, she doesn't have a coping mechanism? "It's annoying," she sighs. "But what's the worst that can happen? They're just taking pictures. A picture of every move. Every good move, every bad move, every wrong move, every awkward move, every misunderstood move, it's all there. There's no getting away from that now unless I start to completely suck at

Does it concern her that, by her own

my job. Unless I completely fall off. So I guess there's a silver lining to all this."

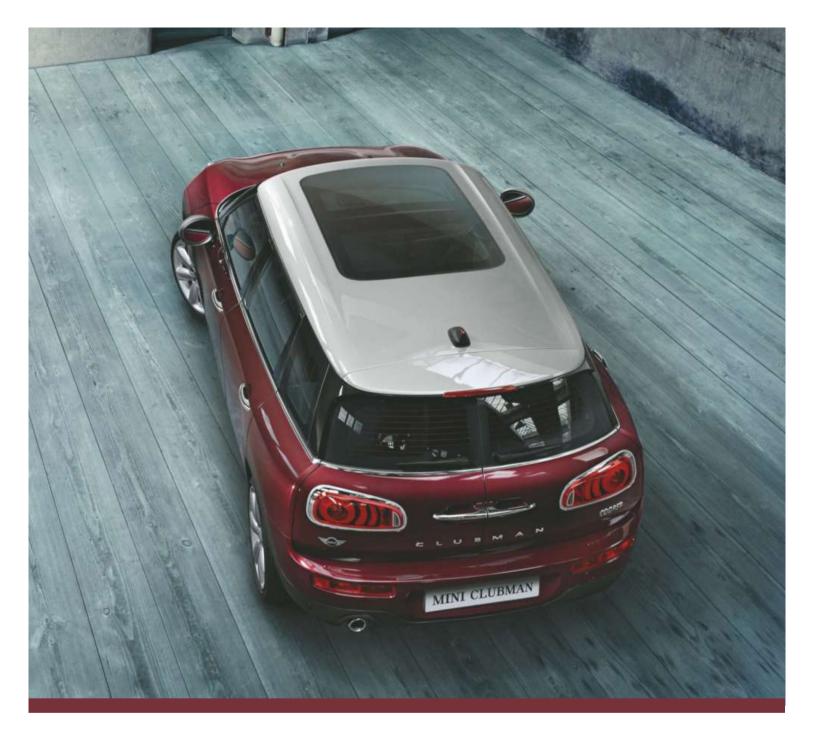
When NME asks Rihanna if she enjoys the time she spends alone, her answer is an instant "yes". "My thoughts never bore me," she shrugs, with a distant look in her eye. "I like to spend my time alone wisely. A moment of quiet. A moment of silence. A moment of just organising my thoughts. I just enjoy being alone. Maybe a little too much..."

Rihanna and NME started talking on Thursday night; it's now Friday. We head downstairs to find the studio all but deserted. As she says goodbye with a hug, Rihanna asks NME about life in the UK. "I'd like to live in London next year, you know," she smiles. "I want to try it. While I'm childless, and I can run around. I wanna do it."

Relocating would be a disruptive move for an LA-based artist like Rihanna, but it would be amusing to watch anybody try to stop her. For any artist, defining one's own territory is the ultimate freedom. And for the artist who's been chatting with NME tonight, 'free' is more than just a word on a T-shirt. It's a way of life.

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Why The Big Bang Theery is the new Friends



The Big Bang Theory is the biggest show in the solar system. With the cliffhanger-charged ninth season set to drop on September 21, Joe Madden tots up the parallels between the Central Perk gang and the Cheesecake Factory crew

All the cool kids think it sucks...

Admit to kinda-liking The Big Bang Theory in hipster-y company and you might as well confess to being a Dapper Laughs devotee. Just as Friends was, TBBT is a cultural pariah to many. "I don't even know where to begin when talking about why I hate The Big Bang Theory so much," rants a post on coolerthan-thou site Sick Chirpse. "It's like a

collage made entirely from turds and I'm trying to decide which turd is the most unpleasant."

The cast is the key

THE BIG BANG THEORY

OUT OF

ORDER

As it was for Friends, TBBT's casting process was arduous. From Melissa Rauch's deceptively aggro biologist Bernadette to Kevin Sussman's tragicomic comic shop guy Stuart, there's not a weak link in the chain. The show's crowning glory, of course, is Jim Parsons' portrayal of physics professor Sheldon – it takes skill to make a character so dickheaded feel sympathetic (hence his Golden Globe and four Emmys).

...But it's smarter and funnier than they give it credit for

With its three-camera format, winking sex jokes and sentimental streak, TBBT was never going to be a critical darling along the lines of cerebral metacomedies such as Arrested Development or Curb Your Enthusiasm. But, like Friends before it, at its best TBBT takes standard sitcom tropes – misunderstandings, pratfalls, zinging comebacks – and fashions beautifully polished, brilliantly performed gags from them.

(Although yes, sometimes it does suck)

Friends-haters had plenty of ammo: yes, the show was startlingly white, the characters' 'problems' were very much of the first-world variety and the sugary schmaltz could be heave-inducing. TBBT can be similarly problematic: the writing is hacky at times; the laughter track gets OTT; and some of the jokes relating to Raj flirt with, if not racism exactly, then certainly uncomfortable stereotyping.

The ratings are ridic
Like many sitcoms that
go on to become allconquering behemoths

- Seinfeld, Cheers, The Office – TBBT
struggled at first. By its sixth season,
however, TBBT was the most popular
comedy on TV; by its seventh, it was
the most popular show on TV. Episode
premieres reach in excess of 23million
viewers in the US, and 1.3million
here. Still, TBBT has a way to go to hit
Friends' peak of 52.9million US viewers,
achieved for the 1996 episode The One
After The Superbowl.

Thanks to points 4 and 5, the cast's wages are insane Like the Friends gang.

TBBT's central cast know their worth and have bagged themselves \$1 million an episode, plus one per cent of any future revenues. Given it's relentless syndication around the globe, that'll mean serious cash long after the show ceases production.

Friends was the first show to tap into the then-zeitgeisty concept of friends being 'the new family'. Most sitcoms were centred around either workplaces or traditional family units, but Friends' creators were sharp enough to see potential in the trend for young people putting off settling down and instead using their mates - rather than spouses or relations - as their support networks. TBBT, however, is the first of the many 'mates-as-family' clones to achieve the fine-tuning of Friends' group dynamic. The plotlines may be cartoonish, but the core relationships feel strangely real and relatable - the fractious affection between polar opposites Penny and Sheldon is particularly well handled.

The plotlines may be cartoonish, but the core relationships feel relatable

It's a cultural time capsule

Friends not only reflected a certain lifestyle - the career-

chasing, perma-dating, cappuccinosipping 20-something - it also defined and influenced it. The show introduced us to the 'manbag', 'the friend zone', 'BFFs' and, of course, the Rachel 'do. TBBT, meanwhile, is both a product of and a contributor to our current generational obsession with 'geeky' pop culture. While few of us are as geeky as Howard, Raj et al, we'll all coo along with them at a

Robocop suit or a Star Wars prop.

Sheldon and Howard have become iconic characters It keeps its characters in check If TBBT endlessly crucified its core characters for their geeky obsessions and social awkwardness, it'd feel tiresomely mean; similarly, if it waved through their more man-childish behaviour without a snicker, it'd never have found an audience beyond cellar-dwelling supergeeks. Sometimes we laugh with these plucky underdogs; other times, at these exhausting losers. That hard-tostrike balance between rooting for the

characters and delighting in their self-

made downfalls is what underpinned Friends' success. For all the show's schmaltzy wish-fulfilment, it was always

ready to slap a character in the chops if

they got too self-obsessed.

Four bits of scientific trivia TBBT taught us

The facts hidden between the laughs

BREAD GOES OFF SIX TIMES QUICKER IN THE FRIDGE

Sheldon: "You shouldn't keep your bread in the refrigerator. Staleness is caused by crystallization of the starch molecules, which occurs faster at cool temperatures. S3 EP6: The Cornhusker Vortex



It's perfect quilty-pleasure comfort telly

And that's why it'll be repeated ad infinitum, a la Friends. Immobilised across your sofa, catastrophically hungover? Now is not the time to crack open that Ingmar Bergman boxset. Chances are, TBBT is on E4 right now. Ssshh. It's NME cool. We won't tell anyone...

ON THE BY Big Bang 101

Ahead of TBBT's ninth season, here's a quick primer of where season eight's finale left everyone



PENNY & LEONARD

En route to a Vegas wedding with Penny, Leonard confesses to a dalliance with a fellow scientist. Are the quickie nuptials off?



AMY & SHELDON

After a broken Amy ends their relationship, Sheldon wonders what he's supposed to do with this engagement ri<mark>ng..</mark>



HOWARD & BERNA-DETTE (& STUART)

Howard and Bernadette's last-ditch effort to eject sad-sack lodger Stuart from their home fails.



EMILY & RAJ

Desperate to tell girlfriend Emily that he's terrified of her and wants to break up, a flustered Raj instead declares his love for her.

THE TURRITOPSIS **DOHRNII JELLYFISH IS IMMORTAL**

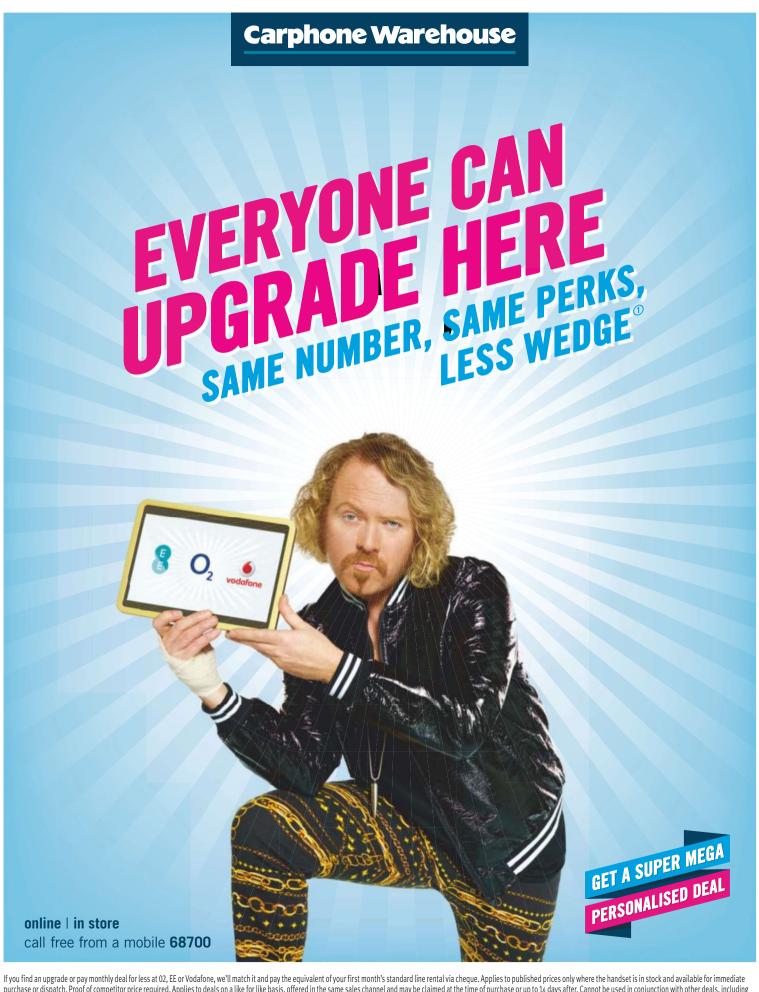
Leonard: "This jellyfish never dies. It reverts to its asexual state and then grows up again." S6 EP20: The Tenure Turbulence

15% OF MALE **PENGUINS ARE ADULTERERS**

Raj (to Mrs Davis): "So if your husband leaving you makes you feel unattractive, remember: penguins get cheated on, and they're adorable." S7 EP1: The Hofstadter Insufficiency

SOME SCIENTISTS VIEW GOSSIP AS A LIVING PARASITE

Amy: "Meme theory suggests that items of gossip are like living things that seek to reproduce using humans as their host." S3 EP20: The Herb **Garden Germination**



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The crusades of



hyrches often describe themselves as "a band born on the internet", who wouldn't be where they are today without the blog buzz that launched them. Being an online phenomenon, however, means learning to take the rough with the smooth. When I meet the trio in a Glasgow bar, multiinstrumentalist lain Cook tells me he's been on edge these past few weeks, living with the knowledge that their new album 'Every Open Eye' could leak online at any moment. He remembers when it happened to its predecessor, 2013's 'The Bones Of What You Believe', and even though that record ultimately eclipsed anything the band had envisioned for it - selling almost a million copies and breaking Chvrches in America - he dreads a repeat. Frontwoman Lauren Mayberry seems more sanguine; she has bigger things on her mind, after all.

It's been a week since Mayberry appeared on Channel 4 News to talk about the sickening abuse and threats of sexual violence she receives – on a daily basis - from the sleazy denizens of 4chan and other misogynist trolls. It's something she's been dealing with ever since Chyrches became successful, but the abuse has peaked lately with the release of the video for 'Leave A Trace', in which Mayberry's appearance has somehow been construed as proof that her staunch views about the objectification of women in pop are "hypocritical" and that she is, in fact, "asking for it".

Taking a stand against these people might not achieve much in the short term, she admits, "but it's not about winning – it's about whether we choose to let ourselves be beaten. You see stories on the news about teenage girls who kill themselves because they were slut-shamed on the internet,

Blame it on Google

Chvrches aren't the only band to spell their name in a stupid way

Alvvays
The Canadian indie dreamers have cunningly employed two Vs to stand in for a W. If you squint...

Deadmau5
The DJ employs
a 5 in place of an
S, resulting in a
name that looks
like an averagely
strong online
password

Majical Cloudz
Grimes' ex
doesn't want us
confusing his
maudlin synthpop project for a
Tumblr of cumulus
formations

"We're an emo band in disguise" Lauren Mayberry

then people turn around and say it's not real, that we should just ignore it. Is this not what [femaleled, post-grunge movement] riot grrrl was talking about in 1992? That they could wear whatever they wanted, because it was about their expression and their lives?"

Many of Chvrches' fans are young enough, Mayberry says, "to still be forming their opinions about how they're going to behave in the world. I don't want young girls to look at us and see us accept that sort of behaviour. Someone asked me, 'Do you regret opening this can of worms?' Well, it was opened for me. It was opened at me."

"We all talked about this," says keyboardist Martin Doherty, "and we agreed that the minute you change your professional persona, or what we do as a band, that's an admission of defeat to these arseholes. The only thing we can do to keep winning is not change a single thing."

It's a philosophy that Chvrches have also applied to the making of 'Every Open Eye', which, like their debut, was written and recorded in Cook's basement flat on the south side of Glasgow. Since his roommate moved out, it's become a full-time studio, which the band spent much of their advance on improving. "It's not like we had gazillions of pounds," says Doherty, "but there was money there, and rather than blowing it all on a fancier studio or putting it in the pocket of some famous producer, we decided to invest it."

Musically, 'Every Open Eye' refines rather than meddles with the sleek, dynamic synthpop of their debut – a sound even Taylor Swift appropriated for last year's 'Out Of The Woods' single. Doherty calls it "an amazing compliment", though he admits that "it wasn't until everyone else started saying it that I noticed it sounded like us."

"I think [Swift's album] '1989' is a great pop record, one of the best things to come out of that particular trend of music," adds Mayberry. "But at the same time, it would be stupid for us to say, 'We were doing that a few years before.' For everyone who says there are certain songs on the radio right now that sound like us, there are a lot of other people who'll say, 'Yeah, but they just sound like Depeche Mode..."

People keep asking Chvrches about second-album pressure, but in the end, even they were surprised at how instinctively 'Every Open Eye' came together in the space of five months. "On day one, we wrote [first track] 'Never Ending Circles'," says Cook. "By day two or three, all our worst fears were forgotten."

Just as importantly, it's an album with a heart as big as its choruses. Mayberry's lyrics don't directly address the abuse she's received, but the record is about finding strength from vulnerability and learning from past mistakes. "Somebody said to me once that Chvrches are an emo band in disguise but nobody had figured

"I'm angry about stuff"

Five powerful quotes from singer Lauren Mayberry

"Is the casual objectification of women so commonplace that we should all just suck it up, roll over and accept defeat? I hope not.
Objectification, whatever its form, is not something anyone should have to 'just deal with'."

Guardian comment piece, September 2013

"The amount of times people are like 'she should smile more' or 'she should dance more'... no-one would ever say that if I was a man. Why doesn't Thom Yorke smile? He would look so much prettier if he smiled."

KROQ interview, April 2014

"Women will not be shamed and silenced and made to disappear. I am not going anywhere. So bring it on, motherf***ers. Let's see who blinks first."

Instagram post, April 2015

"I'm angry about stuff that's important to be angry about. I'm not going to stomp about and be outraged all the time, unless it's called for!" NME, June 2015

"I'm a 27-year-old woman wearing a minidress with wet-look hair. If you don't like it, that's fine. But there's a difference between criticism and hatred." Channel 4 News, August 2015

it out yet, and I thought: you're not wrong!" she laughs, adding that she can only write from personal, often bitter, experience. "I would rather write something that's authentic to me than something that'll be likely to get played on the radio but doesn't have any substance to it. People can see through that really quickly."

All eyes are on Chvrches at the moment, but don't expect them to blink first.



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MUSIC, FILM, TV AND MORE - THIS WEEK'S ESSENTIAL NEW RELEASES

Best NEW tracks
And when to drop them

Best for hi-NRG heartache

CARLY RAE JEPSEN
LA Hallucinations

CRJ reminisces on a soured relationship as only a megastar can do, while laying into *BuzzFeed* and *TMZ* over tangy electro-pop.

Best for slamming doors to

WOLF ALICE Baby Ain't Made Of China

London grungers go country with frontwoman Ellie Rowsell pleading for a "reason to die for" as meaty guitars melt below her caustic vocals.

Best for romantic raving

CHVRCHES Clearest Blue

Lauren Mayberry is jetted to the dancefloor for this clubby love song, with tubthumping drums and an EDM drop that'd make Calvin Harris wet himself.

Best for zoning out

Pure Blue

Anglo-Kiwi-Aussies Splashh slather synths all over their lethargic garage sound. Slow building, dreamy and full of longing.



Best for saucy Sundays

HURTS

Slow

Sultry synth stylings from the Manchester duo, in which pop perv Theo Hutchcraft fantasises about the moment "you take off your mink". Naughty boy.

Best for Generation Rent

REAL LIES

Blackmarket Blues

Modern life is miserable and London trio Real Lies know it, offering kitchen sink social observations over banging bass.

Best for confusing your nan

YVETTE

Calm And Content

Bludgeoning noise, drilling whirrs, sawing guitars – it's aggressive business as usual for New York's noisy duo.

Best for pretending it's still summer

DEERHUNTER

Breaker

Sun-kissed guitars provide a blinding bolt of joy against the longstanding cult US indie band's shuffling, tranquil verses.



Best for the morning after

DIIV

Dopamine

The New York psych reprobates' comeback is a blurry thrill, like piecing together the memories of a heavy night out.





this year, Lana Del Rey said that her third album 'Honeymoon'

would be "very different" to her previous

release, 2014's

underselling 'Ultraviolence'. That album had seen the 'Video

Starline TOURS

Games' singer work with Black Keys frontman Dan Auerbach to strip away the more modern

The constant was the character that Del Rey - real name Lizzy Grant - has fostered: a brooding femme fatale, a stray extra from a Tim Burton film, the sexy face of sadness.

Three albums in, the challenge of 'Honeymoon' is not only to reconnect with the audience who bought 'Born To Die' but also to see how far she can push that character before it becomes a caricature. It's the album on which she can widen her world or

typecast herself for good, but the words "very different" were an exaggeration - bad boys, sadness, mortality and the myth of California are still on the menu.

The grainy video for the title track has the singer reclining on a bank by a freeway, battered paperback in hand; the song sounds like the theme for a desolate Bond film directed by Lars von Trier. Del Rey was, apparently, in the frame for Spectre at one point, and spy soundtracks inform much of the album, from the pensive

Music to watch boys to

The bad lads and deviant dudes Lana has paid lyrical tribute to over her three-album career



ELVIS

Lana's lyric: "Elvis is my daddy/Marilyn's my mother" 'Body Electric'

Most delinquent moment: Being banned from US television from the waist during his TV debut. Rebel rating: 7/10

JAMES DEAN

Lana's lyric: "It was like James Dean for sure/You're so fresh to death" 'Blue Jeans'

Most delinquent moment: The Rebel Without A Cause would eventually lead to his demise at the age of just 24. Rebel rating: 8/10

JESUS

Lana's lyric: "Let's take Jesus off the dashboard/Got enough on his mind" 'Diet Mountain Dew' Most delinquent moment: Flipping over tables in temples, getting pally with a hooker and rebelling against Rome. Take your pick! Rebel rating: 10/10

'God Knows I Tried' to the quietly powerful 'Terence Loves You'. Out of Bond mode, the mood is languid and tortured, the pace slow and intense even when underpinned by trap hip-hop-influenced beats as on 'High By The Beach'.

An intoxicating listen, 'Honeymoon' is designed for the red neon glow of a smoky cabaret bar, a Californian answer to the chanson tradition. Its lyrics are pulled from the jaws of tragedy, and its melodies evoke the uneasy state between wakefulness and dreaming. Lana seems more fragile, and more human this time. And it makes you think: perhaps it's not a character after all. Dan Stubbs

Lizzy Grant returns

LANA DEL REY

Honeymoon

with an intoxicating,

mournful third album



LEONARD COHEN 'I'm Your Man' 1988

Just as Lana's latest brings her tortured

world back to the present, Cohen's '88 album pitted his trademark wit and melancholia against electronic sounds.

FAMOUS FAN

"She's got fantastic charisma, and this is a very interesting thing. It's like she's born out of another time. She's got something that's very appealing to people, and I didn't know that she was influenced by me." David Lynch, director

Cool Keef

Rolling Stone Keith
Richards is a rock'n'roll
survivor who's incapable
of looking like anything
other than his bad self.
His third solo album
'Crosseyed Heart' is out
now. A decent excuse to
revisit him at his coolest...

HIS OFFICE, NEW YORK 1980 >
Fresh from beating charges arising from a Toronto drug bust that threatened to see him banged up for a lengthy stretch, Keith entered the campaign for The Stones' 15th album 'Emotional Rescue' laid-back and relieved, rock'n'roll's louche survivor.



OLYMPIC SOUND STUDIOS, LONDON 1968
Captured in the 1968 Jean-Luc Godard documentary Sympathy For The Devil, the recording of 'Beggars Banquet' marked the start of The Stones' imperial period, and featured some of the visceral guitar work that defined Keith's legend.



VILLA NELLCOTE, CANNES 1971
Villa Nellcôte was the Gomorrah of the '70s.
Fleeing to the French Riviera in 1971 for tax reasons, The Stones recorded 'Exile
On Main Street' there surrounded by poets, junkies, thieves, supermodels and the '60s music elite. The fulcrum was Keith at his most ravaged and creative.



OLYMPIASTADION, MUNICH 2003
The Stones' 40th anniversary The Licks
Tour was a greatest hits bonanza unlike any
other, with Keith in his element. Boasting a
face a Galápagos tortoise would consider 'lived in', he
shredded his way through 'Jumpin' Jack Flash' and
'Gimme Shelter' like the gypsy god of rock'n'roll.



NEW YORK 2015
Fifty years into his career, Keith Richards encapsulates cool: whether posing for Louis Vuitton ads, playing his own dad in *Pirates*Of The Caribbean or turning out records as great as 'Crosseyed Heart' at the age of 379. Keith – for having had the audacity to exist, we salute you.

The Review

KEITH RICHARDS Crosseyed Heart

AS THE DAD-



snorting, drugdevouring, copdodging heart and soul of The Rolling Stones for fifty-odd years, Keith Richards hardly has to prove his edginess credentials. So you'd forgive him a trad blues album, and for a few seconds that's what we get. The opening title track begins with some standard Mississippi blues twangles, but two minutes in it falls apart, with Keith barking to his band the X-Pensive Winos "that's all I got". It heralds a record as gnarled and lived-in as his rhino skin, and one awash with gristly emotion in the '50s whiskey bar croon of 'Lover's Plea', the sultry duo of 'Suspicious' and 'Just A Gift' and the reggae swing of 'Love Overdue'. Country, spiritual, rock: it's a masterfully messy mash-up, and it's quintessentially Keef.

Read the full review on NME.com

Mark Beaumont

ast year, Jack Rocks took up residency at east London venue The Macbeth for three months of tiny gigs from buzzy new names to established stars. La Roux kicked it off, followed by the likes of Kele, Carl Barât And The Jackals, Twin Peaks, Young Guns, Bloody Knees and more. This year, changes are afoot...

Jack Rocks has gone nationwide

This year Jack Rocks are taking things to various venues nationwide from Glasgow's King Tut's Wah Wah Hut to Southampton's Joiners. They'll be uploading loads of exclusive live videos to youtube.com/ JackDaniels, so even if you can't make it to the show you can still be a part of it. You can go to the YouTube channel now to check it out, including footage of The Rifles' gig at London's Garage on September 12.

And the Britain's Best Small Venue campaign is part of it

Jack Rocks continues as part of the Britain's Best Small Venue campaign, which is returning for a fifth essential year. More and more small venues are facing extinction – Leeds' Cockpit, London's 12 Bar and Madame Jojo's and Manchester's Roadhouse have all closed recently – and countless other spaces are being threatened with



The Jack Rocks line-up!

Crushed Beaks @ Guildford Boileroom, September 18

Toy, Carl Barât And The Jackals, Tom Vek, Bo Ningen @ Hackney Wonderland, October 10

Hooton Tennis Club

@ Guildford Boileroom, October 20

Boogarins @ London Old Blue Last, October 29

Sundara Karma @

Southampton Joiners, November 1

Swn Festival @ Cardiff Various venues, November 7-8

Tigercub @ Guildford Boileroom, November 25

Mike Skinner and the Murkage Collective @

Manchester Night & Day, November 27

closure too. Jack Rocks gigs in small venues across the country will highlight the importance of places where bands and artists can learn their craft and build up fanbases. Last year Norwich Arts Centre took the crown, and hosted a victory gig with The Maccabees to celebrate. Where will the party of the year be this year?

Head to youtube.com/jackdaniels



The Rifles

DANIEL'S and OLD NO.7 ARE REGISTERED TRADEN



it is infectious. And crucially, for all the technical wizardry, the menacing squelches of 'Summer Simmer', the wonky techno stomp of 'Tricentennial' and the cosmic fairground wonder of 'Luu Le' which features the sound of a helicopter - all twitch with human warmth. They may be trickier

FANS OF

playmates than before, but Battles'

game is far from over. Ben Hewitt



wonderful and entirely instrumental new album slightly bumpier playing field. Third **BATTLES**

album 'La Di Da Di' is comprised of 12 entirely instrumental tracks that feel like strange sonic experiments cooked up in a lab. There are ROCK CHIN-STROKING

fewer pop hooks to grab hold of, and no quest singers to take you by the hand. Titles like 'Flora > Fauna', 'Dot Com' and 'FF Bada' are odd too, even for Battles.

And yet being

dunked in the deep-end of this weird, glitchy world can be just as much fun as 'Gloss Drop'. From the stuttering rhythms of opener 'The Yabba' to the bitty squiggles of 'Dot Net', the record is as insistent as

Tyondai Braxton quit to pursue a solo career halfway through recording,

La Di Da Di

BATTLES' LAST

'Gloss Drop', was a

masterclass in poptastic playfulness.

After former singer

album, 2011's

the New York three-piece bounced back by roping in pals like Gary Numan and Blonde Redhead's Kazu Makino to sing on a bunch of infectious-but-weird bangers.

This time round though, it's a

The greatest battles in history

A titanic trio of truly unforgettable conflicts



THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS

The gory history class classic of 1066 that ended when Anglo-Saxon King Harold took an arrow to the eye. Like Game Of Thrones without the sex.



ALIEN VS PREDATOR

They said it couldn't be done - and, going by how shocking the resulting 2004 film was, maybe it shouldn't have been.



EMINEM IN 8 MILE

Marshall Mathers slays with style in the finale of his 2002 Detroit-based film. His killer rap battles even include a well timed 'your mum' joke.







CARLY RAE JEPSEN **Emotion** ****

The Canadian shakes off her one-hit wonder' tag ('Call Me Maybe', you will recall) on a consistently bouncy album featuring songs from Sia, Dev Hynes and Vampire Weekend's Rostam Batmanglij



MERCURY REV The Light In You ****

On the Rev's

first album for seven years, keyboards twinkle tweely, crescendos stack up like pancakes and singer Jonathan Donahue coos lyrics spun from purest sap. The Disneyfication of indie rock, essentially.



DESTRUCTION UNIT Negative Feedback Resistor

This dilapidated Arizonan lot's seventh album boasts their heaviest and best song yet bludgeoning six-minute closer 'The Upper Hand'.



BAIO The Names **★★★☆☆**

Vampire Weekend bassist Chris Baio's crisp and

clear solo debut mixes tropical house and UK garage with the dour pop moods of New Order with highly enjoyable results.



RHODES Wishes

**** After support from

the Communion label and a touring slot with Sam Smith, Hitchin songwriter David Rhodes releases his wintry solo debut. Pianos chime, guitars pluck, sparks fail to fly.

Full reviews of these and many more albums are on NME.com



EVEREST

12A Jason Clarke, Josh Brolin, Robin Wright, Keira Knightley, Jake Gyllenhaal



Jason Clarke

slogs through

DRAMA DEATH

MAY 10 1996 WAS, AT THE time, the deadliest day in Mount Everest's history: eight climbers died trying to reach its peak. In telling the tragedy, this gripping film from Icelandic director Baltasar Kormákur (2 Guns) follows amiable New Zealander Rob Hall (Zero Dark Thirty's Jason Clarke) as he attempts to lead a group of experienced amateur climbers from base camp to the

summit, 8,848m above sea level.

A proper IMAX spectacular, the film's power lies in the way Kormákur uses special effects to recreate the terrifying spectacle of the mountain itself, and reveals the extreme physical hardships the climbers are willing to endure to reach its peak. Skin is scorched, fingers and toes are lost, and when Hall's rival mountaineer Scott Fischer (Jake Gyllenhaal)

tries to climb too high, too fast, he becomes so ill that sweat streams down his freezing face.

The screenplay is uneven in the way it fleshes out the film's characters, but it weaves in enough backstory to ensure we're emotionally invested as they prepare for their ill-fated ascent. Hall's pregnant wife Jan (Keira Knightley) is at home anxiously awaiting his return, while one

of his clients, a brash Texan called Beck Weathers (Josh Brolin), has jetted to Everest without even telling his family. It all builds to a heartbreaking finale that leaves the film's most haunting line ringing in your head: "The mountain always has the last word." Nick Levine

Read reviews of the best new films at NME.com

MINT CAKE Edmund Hillary Everest in 1953.



Created by mountain guide Gary Erickson, it's popular with hardcore

climbers.







than the rest.



What made you want to make this film?

"Honestly, there was nothing in me that could say no to this. This is the whole reason I became a filmmaker – to make something this authentic, with a real dramatic story, that involves shooting nature on this incredible scale."

How much of the film was actually shot on Everest?

"A lot, but because of insurance the highest I could take the actors was 4,900m. At that point people started getting really sick and we had to quickly vacate them with helicopters."

Was it hard to shoot?

"It was the most complicated shoot ever! We shot some scenes in the Dolomites in the Italian Alps, which involved 12-hour days in temperatures of -30C."

How did you ensure the film stayed true to the actual events?

"I was lucky enough to be given access to tapes recorded on the day of the disaster. That dictated how I made this film, really."

The five best films America doesn't want you to see

But guess what: you can!

THIS WEEK, THE SMART AND silly *Cooties* is out in the US, but not the UK. We don't know why, but we bet it goes all the way up to the President. It's one of five films that never made it over here but are well worth importing on DVD.



THE ONE LLOVE

HEAVEN KNOWS WHAT 2015

It's about a heroinaddicted girl who lives on the streets and falls in love, but this romance doesn't bring her any closer to being happy. Find a copy and invite all your friends over. You'll really bum them out.

THE ONE I LOVE 2014
A very odd love story about a couple (Mad Men's Elisabeth Moss and Mark Duplass) who visit a secluded retreat to sort out their marital troubles. While there weird things happen, involving sex with doppelgängers.

SNOWPIERCER 2013

Snowpiercer stars
Chris 'Captain America'
Evans and sees the remains
of humanity trying to survive
on a globe-spanning train
after mankind accidentally
brings about a new ice age.

THE IMMIGRANT
2013
Set in the 1920s, the
film sees Marion Cotillard as
a Polish woman who moves
to New York, is separated
from her sister and is tricked
by Joaquin Phoenix's sinister
theatre manager-cum-pimp.



Life in the old Doc yet

With Peter Capaldi back for his second series as the Timelord, we run down the reasons why series nine will put the 'ooh' in *Doctor Who*

DOCTOR WHO
Saturday, BBC One, 7.40pm
Sci-Fi CULT

Capaldi has become the Doc

Channel hoppers could've been excused for mistaking Peter Capaldi's initial Doctor Who episodes for a freaky The Thick Of It dream sequence in which Malcolm Tucker berates a Dalek. But this season, according to the show's creators, there's no confusion: Capaldi has made the Doctor his own. "He's just on amazing form at the moment," says executive producer Steven Moffat. "There's always a feeling when the new Doctor comes in of, 'That's Peter Capaldi as the Doctor.' Now it's just, 'That's the Doctor!"

It's dark. Very dark

Doctor Who is a good guy. Or is he? This time round, things get unnerving, with the Doctor having committed an atrocity that causes him to be hunted by a hooded monster - one so creepy it'd have no problem gaining a residents' permit for Mordor. "We know what he did," it hisses in an opening episode with a body count that'd decimate a football team and a Timelord whose wide, terrified eyes look like eight-balls on china plates. The reason for his terror? Within 24 hours, the Doctor will be dead. Not the most relaxing start to the series.



This series is going to be more star-studded than a Taylor Swift selfie. Game Of Thrones' Maisie Williams will appear, as will The League Of Gentlemen star Reece Shearsmith, Rufus Hound, Paul Kaye and Bethany Black (C4's Cucumber). Plus, in a rejoining of ex-The Thick Of It cast members, Rebecca Front will be back on screen with Peter Capaldi, playing an as yet unspecified role. But this time, will Capaldi accuse her of having "all the charm of a rotting teddy bear by a graveside?" Probably not.

There might be sex-based weather systems

In fact, this series is exciting reunion central. As well as Front and Capaldi getting the old band back together, Mark Gatiss will rejoin the writing team, while last series' primo villain, Missy, will be brought back from the dead. Best of all, Alex Kingston will reprise her role as River Song – the Doctor's time-travelling wife. She and Capaldi have never actually appeared on screen together, but that's where the excitement lies. According to Steven Moffat, the show's previous executive producer, Russell T Davies got so het up about it, he blurted out: "Capaldi and Kingston - it's a sex storm!" Alexi Duggins

For more on *Doctor Who*, visit NME.com

Who or Tucker?

Which Peter Capaldi character said it – Doctor Who or Malcolm Tucker?



- Do people ever punch you in the face when you laugh? No? Lucky I'm here, then, isn't it?"
- I'd love to stop and chat to you, but I'd rather have type two

diabetes."

- Imagine the worst possible thing in the universe, and then don't bother. Because you're looking at it right now."
- I never bother with sleeping. I just do standing up catnaps. I generally take them whenever anyone else starts talking."
- I didn't know you were still alive. How's the '80s tribute band?
 Still doing the Robert Palmer lookalike?"

The long-awaited This Is England '90 swaggered onto TV last week. Director Shane Meadows talks about the future of the game-changing show - if there is one...

director Shane

THIS IS ENGLAND '90 Sunday, Channel 4, 9pm DRAMA BLEAK

This Is England '90 is airing in the midst of a wave of '90s nostalgia. Was that planned?

"I never thought about that, but there's always been this little kismet thing with This Is England."



thick of the baggy boom...

"Musically, for my generation it was a huge movement. People were travelling the country, going to Spike Island - most of which I missed - but I was part of the ripple effect of that."

So This Is England '90 is about missing out on a big cultural event?

"Yeah, it bears the brunt of that in a beautiful way. It manages to find beauty in the mundane, and in the obsolete sometimes. These people in small towns, whatever they'd fallen in love with as a kid, they didn't change. You'd have a goth, and you'd go back [years later] and they'd still be a goth. It sounds a bit sad, be it's kind of beautiful." It sounds a bit sad, but it isn't,

Did shooting The Stone Roses doc Made Of Stone influence how you made TIE '90?

"There's a scene in episode three which is a single take of probably

> the most dramatic scene I've shot so far, with quite a few characters. Using 30 cameras at a gig to film The Stone Roses, I realised I don't have to use just one camera for everything and then do the take a million times. So had I not done Made Of

Stone I wouldn't have ever come up with the concept of having 10 cameras running at one time in a council house, from the back of the room, to capture it in one go. It's one of the most believable. real, penetrating, emotional scenes I've ever shot - but shot with 10 cameras, which is quite weird."

You say there "probably" won't be another This Is England. Is this really the end?

"The only reason we would ever come back again is if there was a story that needed telling. At the moment there isn't another series that exists in my head, but as this one has proved, you can have a couple of years on the sidelines and then things can formulate. I've given people an ending I'm really proud of if it is the last one. But never say never." Sam Rowe



why Meadows is "the godfather"



oe Gilgun (Woody) 'I never have and never will work with another director who trusts his actors like Shane trusts us."



Vicky McClure (Lol) "Directors are trying to find unknown actors and let them be themselves. Shane's the godfather of it."



(Gadget) "If you do a really dark scene, Shane'll be like, 'Come on, we'll go for a drink.' That's nice."

Five huge 1990 moments

Some of the biggest events in what proved to be a truly tumultuous first year of the new decade in many different ways



SPIKE ISLAND The Stone Roses confirm their rock god status with a ropey outdoor show at a former chemical plant.



GAZZA'S TEARS England lose to West Germany in the semifinal of the 1990 World Cup. Gazza cries, a nation cries too.



MANDELA FREE South Africa relaxes its apartheid laws, finally allowing Nelson Mandela to make the long walk to freedom.



KUWAIT INVASION Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein invades Kuwait, making bushy mustachios a no-go for years.



THATCHER QUITS Hated Tory PM Maggie Thatcher is stitched up by her own cabinet and resigns after 11 years.

4 1 6 Work hard, play hard Three other games that feel a bit like jobs

ho's playing who?

Nintendo's new Mario game challenges players to design their own levels

SUPER MARIO MAKER

STRATEGY SHROOMEDELIA

IT MUST'VE BEEN quite a eureka moment. A designer at Nintendo drops his stress ball, points at the Super Mario Bros design template on his screen and yells, "Of course! This is the game! Designing software is such a wild-ass thrill-ride

that we could sell it

as entertainment!" And thus was created Super Mario Maker, a game in which you create your own Super Mario levels from a fixed template, play them and post them online for others to beat, unlocking new design options the more levels vou make.

Brilliant! Or is it? Surely SMM upends the fundamental

DIRNGETRIF

When Mario first appeared, in the 1981 arcade game Donkey Kong, he was bald. Hair was added for the '85 release of Super Mario Bros

point of gaming: that designers challenge the player in a series of increasingly fiendish tasks. It's work for which designers are rewarded with much hard cash.

So what's the gamer's reward? Trolling the internet, that's what. SMM pits you against the d**khead 'team-mates' bawling abuse at you from Shanghai for shooting them on Call Of Duty. Now's your chance to create a gap one pixel too wide for Mario to jump and turn them into that Greatest Freakout Ever guy from YouTube. Otherwise, SMM is all about beating yourself, and us gamers have been doing that for decades. Mark Beaumont

IMAGINE: BABYSITTERS

Need to pass the time while babysitting? Why not play Nintendo's Imagine: Babysitters on the 3DS? Dress and feed babies! Organise 'play dates'! Don't collect £5 an hour at the end!



RECYCLE: GARBAGE TRUCK SIMULATOR

Drive "realistic garbage trucks" and "head your own waste management enterprise," says the blurb. Yes, you're a bin man, for 'fun'. See also Euro Truck Simulator.



PAPERS, PLEASE

A game in which you play an immigration official checking passports. It sounds dull, but the moral dilemmas are so emotionally complex that Papers, Please won top gaming awards in 2014.

For more reviews and recommendations go to NME.com

Three times Mario made history

Pretty good for a plumber



SUPER MARIO BROS

(1985) First released for: NES In late 1983 people stopped buying video games as they were mostly rubbish. Two years later the NES launched with Super Mario Bros included. Game design instantly improved and an icon was born.

SUPER MARIO KART

(1992) First released for: SNES Has any man-made item provided as many hours of fun as Super Mario Kart? Anyone who says yes is a liar. Good to play solo. Good with pals. Good drinking game. Perfect.

SUPER MARIO 64

(1996) First released for: N64 Before Super Mario 64, 3D games were a good idea that no-one had executed properly. After it, they became easy-to-play masterpieces where gamers could lose themselves for hours.

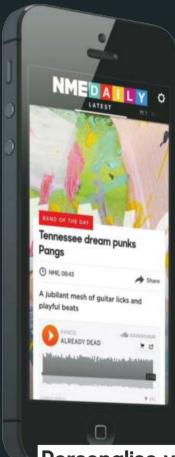
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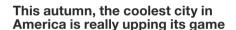
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rom the buzz of Sixth Street's bars and venues to the trendy boutiques of South Congress and the mid-city swimming hole at Barton Springs, there's always fun to be had in Austin, Texas. This autumn the Live Music Capital Of The World® – and sponsor of the NME Awards 2016 - are upping the ante. Here are the highlights...



THE UNITED STATES **GRAND PRIX**

Circuit Of The Americas October 23-25

First: one of the highlights of the Formula 1 season. Then, after the race, Elton John plays. Also that weekend is a showcase from the POP Austin International Art Show, featuring some of the most important artists of the 20th century.

TICKETS

circuitoftheamericas.com/f1

AUSTIN FILM FESTIVAL Various venues

October 29-November 5

Now in its 22nd year, AFF brings together the world's biggest filmmaking talents. Highlights include I Saw The Light, with Tom Hiddleston as country music legend Hank Williams, the world premiere of James Franco's latest film Memoria, and new Michael Caine and Harvey Keitel flick, Youth.

TICKETS austinfilmfestival.com

FUN FUN FUN FEST

Auditorium Shores November 6-8

Boasting the best of mainstream and cult hip-hop, punk, rock and soul, Fun Fun Fest brings together one of the best left of centre line-ups of the year. This year sees sets from D'Angelo, Wu-Tang Clan, Chvrches, Cheap Trick, Grimes, L7, Joey Bada\$\$ and Future Islands, plus an an impressive comedy bill.

TICKETS funfunfunfest.com



Little Simz

North London rapper endorsed by Snoop Dogg, Kendrick Lamar, Jay Z and more

aka Little Simz –
has been repped
hard. From Kendrick
Lamar to Snoop
Dogg, the cream
of the hip-hop game have been
tripping over themselves to shout
about the 21-year-old rapper from
Islington, north London.

imbi Ajikawo -

With attention from the genre's biggest stars and a host of labels, she could have cherry picked whoever she wanted to release her debut album, 'A Curious Tale Of Trials + Persons'. Instead, she's self-releasing it, because Little Simz plays by her own rules. Or, as she rather more bluntly puts it: "I don't work with dicks."



Besttrack

Frozen

Check this lush
IAMNOBODI-produced track
for a hint of Simz's soulful
and unique appeal.

Simz was rapping before her age hit double figures and had already released an embarrassment of material by the time Jay Z premiered her fourth mixtape, 2013's 'Blank Canvas', on his Life + Times platform. Since then, she's been on tour with Schoolboy Q and performed at the BBC 1Xtra Proms alongside a full orchestra.

She's been lumped in with the recent second coming of grime, but her crisp flow and oft-soulful production suggest it's cult hip-hop figure J Dilla, not Dizzee, on her headphones. What she shares with the resurgent genre, though, is a

DIY auteurism and a heavy dose of love for her crew, Space Age. It's that tight team behind her debut album rather than big name guests or producers. "These are all people who've influenced me thus far and will continue to influence me," is her reason.

Simz likes to "keep it experimental", and on her album she follows up a sweet apology song to her next-door neighbour with the menacing 'Dead Body'. Little Simz is on the way to big things, but don't expect her to compromise. Clare Considine

Little Simz at the SXSW Festival, Austin, Texas, March 18, 2015





2James Bay

Tuesday 22, Wednesday 23 O2 Apollo, Manchester Thursday 24 O2 Academy, Glasgow

WHO: Hertfordshire singersongwriter who won 2015's Brits Critics' Choice Award and wears big hats.

WHY: Bay is on the same path to stardom as Ed Sheeran and Tom Odell, with a Number One album and a bunch of awards to his name. He won't be playing venues this small for much longer. 'Hold Back The River' is his biggest hit so far, and sparks a PDA epidemic whenever he plays it.

WHO'S SUPPORTING:

Country singer Elle King.

TICKETS: From £36.





Florence + The Machine

Friday 18 Arena, Manchester Saturday 19 Genting Arena, Birmingham Monday 21, Tuesday 22, Thursday 24 Alexandra Palace, London

WHO: The thunder-lunged Florence Welch and band, who found themselves headlining Glastonbury at the last minute after Dave Grohl broke his leg.

WHY: It's her first arena tour. She's brilliant live. 'Shake It Out' is a bona fide anthem. Look out for her getting the crowd to whip off their tops.

WHO'S SUPPORTING: Folk-rock trio The Staves.

TICKETS: Sold out, but tickets are going for around £39.

4 Morrissey

Friday 18 Arena, Hull Sunday 20, Monday 21 Eventim Apollo, London

WHO: Founding member of The Smiths, lover of flowery language, frequently controversial stalwart of the indie scene.

WHY: He's better at onstage diatribes than Kanye, with targets including the monarchy and animal cruelty.

WHO'S SUPPORTING:

No details yet, but you can bet there won't be any burger stalls.

TICKETS: Hull is sold out, so check secondary ticketing sites; London is £61.60-£86 from NME.com/tickets.

For tour news and live reviews go to NME.com





Savages

Friday 18 Dismaland, Weston-super-Mare

WHO: Anglo-Franco post-punk quartet who are as electrifying as they are intimidating.

WHY: Frontwoman Jehnny
Beth recently said the band
tried to write "the loudest songs
ever" for their forthcoming
second album, and has called
it "aggressive" and "mean".
They've played a handful of
them over the summer, and will
now showcase them during
a special performance at
Banksy's Dismaland.

WHO'S SUPPORTING:

Savages are, themselves, supporting lairy political duo Sleaford Mods.

TICKETS: Sold out, but doing the rounds for £35.





6

One Direction

Tuesday 22 Roundhouse, London **Thursday 24** The O2, London

WHO: You really need to ask?

WHY: The poor little guys are in crisis at the moment. Founding member Zayn Malik left the band earlier this year, so this will be their first UK tour as a quartet. And they've announced they're taking a break in March. Are the good times really coming to an end?

WHO'S SUPPORTING:

Fellow former *X Factor* chancers Little Mix.

TICKETS: The Roundhouse show is free via ballot; The O2 is going for £60 on secondary ticket sites.

7Leon Bridges

Tuesday 22 Anson Rooms, Bristol Wednesday 23 Albert Hall, Manchester Thursday 24 O2 ABC, Glasgow

WHO: Super-soulful Texan who casts both eyes back to straight-up, classic R&B.

WHY: The 26-year-old is a man of few words, but his songs are full of simple, direct and relatable lines about love, life and longing. Members of Texan garage rockers White Denim play in his band, alongside a gaggle of backing singers.

WHO'S SUPPORTING:

Grace, an 18-year-old singer who's been working with producer Quincy Jones.

TICKETS: £15.40 from NME.com/tickets.





8 Wolf Alice

Saturday 19 O2 ABC, Glasgow Monday 21 University, Newcastle Tuesday 22 Plug, Sheffield Wednesday 23 O2 Guildhall, Southampton

WHO: Britain's Best New Band, of course.

WHY: Their live shows are a masterclass in uninhibited, raucous fun. The rampant riffs of 'You're A Germ' and 'Giant Peach' are hard to ignore.

WHO'S SUPPORTING:

Sludgy rock brothers Drenge and New York fuzzy indie trio Made Violent.

TICKETS: Newcastle £15.40 from NME.com/tickets; other dates sold out but tickets are going from £10 upwards on secondary ticketing sites.

live 9

Unknown Mortal Orchestra

Tuesday 22 Concorde 2, Brighton Wednesday 23 O2 Shepherds Bush Empire, London Thursday 24 The Institute, Birmingham

WHO: Portland-based psychrock trio masterminded by Kiwi frontman Ruban Nielson.

WHY: Recent album 'Multi-Love' is all vibrant psych grooves and analysis of love in the 21st century. Nielson's also grown as a live performer.

WHO'S SUPPORTING:

Finnish dreampopper Jaako Eino Kalevi.

TICKETS: Brighton and Birmingham sold out; London £19.25 from NME.com/tickets.





10 Johnny Marr

Friday 18 Engine Rooms, Southampton

WHO: Morrissey's former sparring partner in The Smiths and one of the most iconic British guitarists of all time.

WHY: As well as being an indie legend in his old band, Marr released a number of albums with New Order frontman Bernard Sumner as Electronic and has put out two solo albums in the last few years, so he's got a lot of material to build his setlist out of.

WHO'S SUPPORTING:

No details yet.

TICKETS: £23.10 from NME.com/tickets.

Best of the rest

Action Bronson

Fri 18 Institute, Birmingham Sat 19 O2 Academy, Bristol

Beirut

Thu 24 O2 Academy Brixton, London

Brand New

Sat 19 O2 Academy, Sheffield Sun 20 Empire, Middlesbrough Mon 21 Usher Hall, Edinburgh Tue 22 Vicar Street, Dublin

Buzzcocks

Sat 19 The Square, Harlow

Chyrches

Wed 23 Tufnell Park Dome, London

Crushed Beaks

Fri 18 Boileroom, Guildford Tue 22 Victoria, London Thu 24 Bassment Bar, Chelmsford

The Damned

Fri 18 Copper Rooms, Coventry Sat 19 Bisley Pavilion Hotel, Woking Thu 24 Liquid Rooms, Edinburgh

Georgia

Fri 18 Central Library, St Helens

Giggs

Fri 18 Indigo, London

Gwenno

Fri 18 Hug & Pint, Glasgow Sat 19 Think Tank, Newcastle Sun 20 Soup Kitchen, Manchester Tue 22 Oslo, London Wed 23 Louisiana, Bristol

Half Moon Run

Mon 21 Oslo, London

H Hawkline

Fri 18 Hug & Pint, Glasgow Sat 19 Think Tank, Newcastle Sun 20 Soup Kitchen, Manchester Tue 22 Oslo, London Wed 23 Louisiana, Bristol

Honeyblood

Fri 18 Art School, Glasgow

Joanna Gruesome

Fri 18 Islington Mill, Manchester Sat 19 Head Of Steam, Newcastle Sun 20 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds

Tue 22 Scala, London Wed 23 Summerhall, Edinburgh

Joel Gion

Tue 22 Start The Bus, Bristol

Kid Wave

Fri 18 Sticky Mike's Frog Bar, Brighton

Sat 19 Oakford Social Club, Reading

Mon 21 Portland Arms, Cambridge Tue 22 Exchange, Bristol



Rat Boy

Mon 21 Ruby Lounge, Manchester "It's a small gig but there'll be a massive atmosphere"

La Shark

Fri 18 Joiners Arms, Southampton Wed 23 Cookie, Leicester Thu 24 Bodega, Nottingham

Outfit

Mon 21 Electrowerkz, London

Peace

Thu 24 O2 Academy, Liverpool

Peter Hook & The Light

Fri 18 Guildhall, Gloucester Sat 19 Picturedrome, Holmfirth Thu 24 Art School, Glasgow

Pins

Fri 18 Deaf Institute, Manchester Sat 19 Sneaky Pete's, Edinburgh Tue 22 Hare & Hounds, Birmingham Wed 23 Oslo, London

Pretty Vicious

Thu 24 Exchange, Bristol

Public Image Ltd

Fri 18 O2 ABC, Glasgow Sat 19 Academy, Manchester Sun 20 Riverside, Newcastle Tue 22 Fibbers, York Wed 23 Copper Rooms, Coventry

Rat Boy

Fri 18 Parr Street Studios, Liverpool Sat 19 Wardrobe, Leeds Mon 21 Ruby Lounge, Manchester Tue 22 Library, Skelmersdale Wed 23 Sugarmill, Stoke Thu 24 Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham

Shura

Wed 23 Rescue Rooms, Nottingham

Sleaford Mods

Pretty Vicious play

Exchange, Bristol, on

Thursday September 24

Mon 21 Black Box, Belfast Wed 23 Ritz, Manchester Thu 24 Brickyard, Carlisle

Sweet Baboo

Fri 18 Leadmill, Sheffield Sat 19 King Tut's Wah Wah Hut, Glasgow Sun 20 Crescent, York Tue 22 Rainbow, Birmingham Wed 23 Bethnal Green Working Men's Club, London

Torres

Mon 21 Louisiana, Bristol Tue 22 Deaf Institute, Manchester Wed 23 Scala, London

Vangoffey

Fri 18 Arts Centre, Colchester Sun 20 Concorde 2, Brighton Mon 21 Wedgewood Rooms, Portsmouth Tue 22 Fleece, Bristol

The Wombats

Thu 24 Keele Uni, Newcastle

Youth Lagoon

Thu 24 XOYO, London

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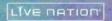












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- 30 BOURNEMOUTH BIC

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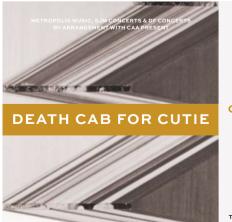
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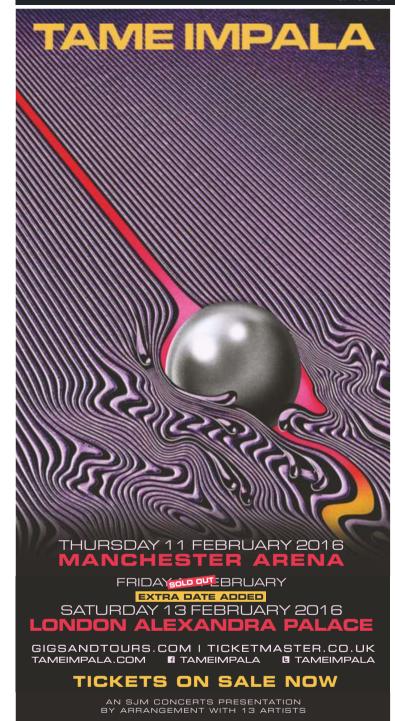
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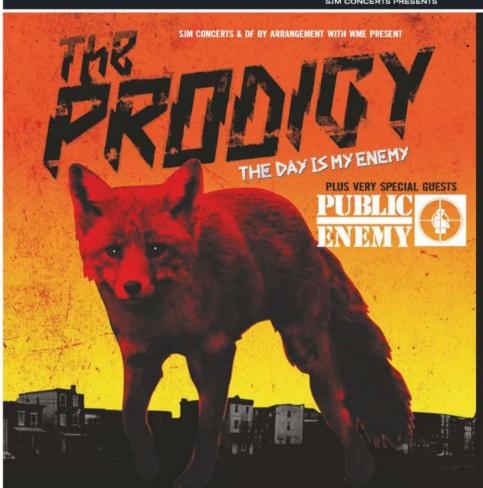
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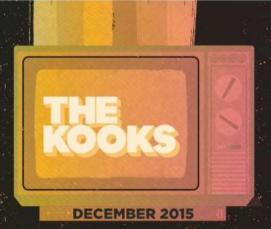
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02.10.15

THE MARBLE FACTORY BRISTOL

THE OOBLECK BIRMINGHAM

THE OLD MARKEY HOVE

BABY STRANGE

+ CATHOLIC ACTION

061015 **BOSTON MUSIC ROOMS**

GENGAHR

+ CASH+DAVID

& PUMA ROSA

06.10.15 **BRIGHTON KOMEDIA**

07.10.15

BRISTOL EXCHANGE

08.10.15

LONDON SCALA

13 10 15

NORWICH ARTS CENTRE

EKKAH

MOTH CLUB HACKNEY

EDITORS

+ THE TWILIGHT SAD

EVENTIM APOLLO LONDON

ALL WE ARE

14.10.15 LONDON SCALA

DORNIK

BUSSEY BUILDING LONDON

JP COOPER

15.10.15 **LONDON KOKO**

SWIM DEEP

+ PRETTY VICIOUS & THE MAGIC GANG

BIRMINGHAM INSTITUTE

18.10.15

CAMBRIDGE JUNCTION

BRISTOL TRINITY CENTRE

21.10.15

BRIGHTON CONCORDE 2

22.10.15

LONDON ROUNDHOUSE

ANNE-MARIE

21.10.15 OSLO HACK SOLD OUT



SPEEDY ORTIZ

+ TRUST FUND

21.10.15 **DOME TUFNELL PARK**

HONNE

21.10.15 **LONDON OVAL SPACE**

LUCY ROSE

+ FLYTE

& C DUNCAN

24.10.15

WREXHAM CENTRAL STATION

25.10.15

CARLISLE BRICKYARD

03.11.15

SOUTHEND CHINNERY'S

07.11.15

02 ACADEMY 2 LIVERPOOL

NORTHAMPTON ROADMENDERS

NEWCASTLE RIVERSIDE

NOTTINGHAM RESCUE ROOMS

18.11.15

LONDON FORUM

MARIBOU STATE

VILLAGE UNDER SOLD OUT

BRISTOL EXCHANGE

BRIGHTON HAUNT

04.11.15

ISLINGTON MILL MANCHESTER

HEALTH

28.10.15

LONDON HEAVEN

METZ

+ PROTOMARTYR

& SPRING KING

01.11.15

LONDON SCALA

BROKEN HANDS

OSLO HACKNEY

ROME FORTUNE

LONDON FIELDS BREWERY

ALGIERS

09.11.15 **LONDON THE LEXINGTON**

LEO KALYAN

10.11.15 LONDON THE COURTYARD THEATRE

VAULTS

11.11.15 **LONDON KOKO**

PUBLIC SERVICE **BROADCASTING**

EDINBURGH QUEENS HALL

18.11.15

LEEDS UNIVERSITY REFECTORY

19.11.15 **02 ACADEMY LIVERPOOL**

20.11.15

NOTTINGHAM ROCK CITY

21.11.15

NORWICH OPEN

26.11.15

CARDIFF GREAT HALL

27.11.15

02 GUILDHALL SOUTHAMPTON

BRIXTON 02 ACADEMY

THE MACCABEES

NORWICH UEA

22.11.15

CAMBRIDGE CORN EXCHANGE

BRIGHTON DOME

24.11.15

02 GUILDHALL SOUTHAMPTON

27.11.15 **READING HEXAGON**

BRISTOL COLSTON HALL

LION BABE

LONDON HEAVEN

AUTOBAHN

01.12.15

LONDON SEBRIGHT ARMS

ALT-J

01.12.15 **BOURNEMOUTH BIC**

02.12.15

CARDIFF **MOTORPOINT ARENA**

EXETER WESTPOINT

MEADOWLARK

14.12.15 **LONDON THE LEXINGTON**

JASON ISBELL

+ JOHN MORELAND

O2 SHEPHERD'S BUSH EMPIRE

The Enemy

UK TOUR NOV & DEC 2015

NOV 13-YEOVIL - NEO + TAPESTRY + FLESH NOV 16-YORK - FIBBERS + INCREDIBLE MAGPIE BAND + CLAY

NOV 17 -MANCHESTER - RITZ + FRANKO FRAIZE + TAPESTRY

NOV 18 -BIRMINGHAM - INSTITUTE + WILL & THE PEOPLE + APRIL

LONDON - FORUM + ASYLUMS + WILL & THE PEOPLE

NOV 21 -COVENTRY - EMPIRE + ASYLUMS + APRIL

NOV 22 PORTSMOUTH - WEDGEWOOD ROOMS
+ ASYLUMS + FLESH

NOV 24 -NEWCASTLE - RIVERSIDE + JOE CARNALL JNR + CLAY NOV 25 -LEEDS - STYLUS + FRANKO FRAIZE + CLAY

+ FRANKO FRAIZE + CLAY
NOV 26 - SOLD OUT
GLASGOW - GARAGE
+ BROWN BEAR + TIJUANA BIBLES
NOV 28 - SOLD OUT
SHEFFIELD - LEADMILL
+ JOE CARNALL JNR + APRIL

NOV 29 -NORWICH - WATERFRONT + FRANKO FRAIZE + APRIL

DEC 01 NOTTINGHAM - ROCK CITY
+ JOE CARNALL JNR + SAME STREETS

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(a) Sleafordmods 09 NOTTINGHAM ROCK CITY New album 'KEY MARKETS' AXS.COM | SEETICKETS.COM TICKETMASTER.CO.UK | SONGKICK.COM







MALLORY KNOX

28 GLASGOW 02 ABC

29 MANCHESTER THE RITZ MAMBRIDGE JUNCTION

WOLVERHAMPTON WULFRUN HALL

03 MIDDLESBROUGH EMPIRE

04 CARDIFFYPLAS

06 EXETER LEMON GROVE

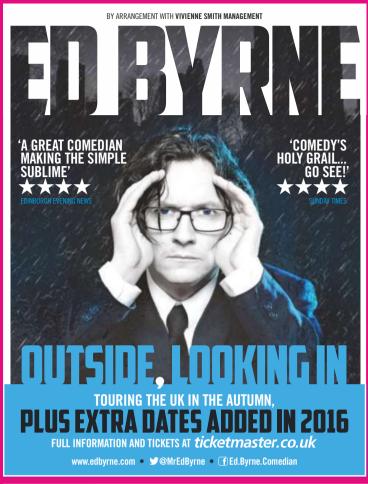
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07 NOTTINGHAM ROCK CITY

NORWICH UEA 08

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WED 25 & THU 26 NOVEMBER

COLSTON HALL

FRI 27 & SAT 28 NOVEMBER

SUNDAY 29 NOVEMBER

PAVILIONS

TUESDAY 1 DECEMBER

CITY HALL

WEDNESDAY 2 DECEMBER

REGENT

THURSDAY 3 DECEMBER

NOTTINGHAM ROYAL CONCERT

HALL 0115 989 5555

FRIDAY 4 DECEMBER

CENTRE

SATURDAY 30 JANUARY

FIRST DIRECT

ARENA

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SUNDAY 31 JANUARY

PLAYHOUSE

MONDAY 1 FEBRUARY

CITY HALL 0191 277 8030

ORTSMOUTH GUILDHALL

TUE 10 & WED 11 NOVEMBER SECC CLYDE AUDITORIUM

THU 12 & FRI 13 NOVEMBER CITY HALL 0191 277 8030

SAT 14 & SUN 15 NOVEMBER

ECHOTWO AT ECHO ARENA 0844 8000 400 *

TUE 17 & WED 18 NOVEMBER 02 APOLLO

THURSDAY 19 NOVEMBER **OPERA HOUSE**

FRIDAY 20 NOVEMBER SYMPHONY **HALL** 0121 345 0600

SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER

MOTORPOINT ARENA 029 2022 4488

MONDAY 23 NOVEMBER BARCLAYCARD ARENA (THEATRE FORMAT 0871 945 6000

TUESDAY 24 NOVEMBER

CITY HALL 0114 2 789 789

TUESDAY 2 FEBRUARY 02 APOLLO

FRIDAY 5 FEBRUARY

DE MONTFORT HALL

SATURDAY 6 FEBRUARY

NEW THEATRE

SLINDAY 7 FERRI IARY

REGENT

MONDAY 8 FEBRUARY **CLIFFS PAVILION**

THURSDAY 11 FEBRUARY
STOKE-ON-TRENT VICTORIA HALL

FRIDAY 12 FEBRUARY

CORN EXCHANGE

SATURDAY 13 FEBRUARY

NOTTINGHAM ROYAL CONCERT HALL

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SUNDAY 14 FEBRUARY CENTRE

MON 15 & TUE 16 FEBRUARY

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September

16 LEEDS O₂ Academy

17 GLASGOW O2 ABC

18 NEWCASTLE O2 Academy

19 MANUSTER Ritz

23 PORTSMOUTH Pyramids

24 LONDON Forum

26 BIRMINGHAM O₂ Academy 27 BRISTOL O₂ Academy

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JEREMY LOOPS CONTINENTAL DRIFT

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THE DEAF INSTITUTE, MANCHESTER THE PORTLAND ARMS, CAMBRIDGE

THEKLA, BRISTOL
THE HAUNT, BRIGHTON
O₂ SHEPHERD'S BUSH EMPIRE, LONDON

THE BULLINGDON, OXFORD WATERFRONT STUDIO, NORWICH

THE TEMPLE, BIRMINGHAM

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MYN RORS MYN RORS

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The Monochrome Set / Grasscut / Miaoux Miaoux

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The Jaguar Club / Whyte Horses / Jonnie Common
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Sound to the song that makes

NWA legend and hip-hop pioneer

The first sona I remember hearing

CARL DOUGLAS Kung Fu Fighting

"I remember being a kid, getting in my family's car, turning the dial on the radio and 'Kung Fu Fighting' just hitting me. It was so dope. It wasn't anything to do with love - like most songs - it was about having fun, this crazy rush of blood. For me, it soundtracked growing up in the '70s."



The first song I fell in love with **MARVIN GAYE**

What's Going On

"It's got so much soul, but it's also politically conscious. It started me thinking about those things. Before long, when my mom was working nights, I wouldn't be watching cartoons - I'd be watching the news. Marvin told me what's going on."

Watch Ice Cube talk Compton on NME.com

The song that best sums up NWA

NWA F**k Tha Police

"It was something the entire universe wanted to scream out. Although we were coming from a very specific place, with problems specific to Compton, 'F**k Tha Police' was universal. Authorities stepping on people was something going on around the entire world."

The song that made me want to make music

SUGARHILL GANG 8th Wonder

"When I heard it, it put me on a path. I wanted to rap just like that. It's an awesome party song. I still love it."

The song I can no longer listen to

BEYONCÉ FEAT. JAY Z **Drunk In Love**

"So f**king catchy. Too f**king catchy, man. On the radio all the time, everywhere, going, "Surfboard! Su-susurfboard!" It's a good song, but I could do with a break now."

me want to dance

FUNKADELIC (Not Just) Knee Deep

"No DJ about to play in a club should leave home without this. It's one of the best songs ever. It's so funky - just thinking about it makes me want to dance."



The first album I ever bought RUN-DMC

Run-DMC

"I had all the singles, but I just had to buy the album. Problem was, I didn't have the money - I only had half. So, me and one of my friends went halves on it. I got it Thursday, Friday and Saturday, he had it the rest of the week."

The song I do at karaoke

CURTIS MAYFIELD Superfly

"'Superfly' is a classic. I love it so much I sampled it [on 'The N***a Ya Love To Hate']. So maybe I'd get on the mic and do that song."

The song I wish I'd written

PUBLIC ENEMY Bring The Noise

"It's the attitude, the energy they bring. I learned so much from them musically, in terms of having a voice and having a say on things that matter. It's like an explosion of thought."

The song I want played at my funeral PARLIAMENT

Flash Light

"I want my funeral to be a party - people eating, talking, dancing. I want a DJ there spinning all my favourite sh*t as I'm lowered into the ground - all these songs I've been talking about, but especially this. It's perfect."



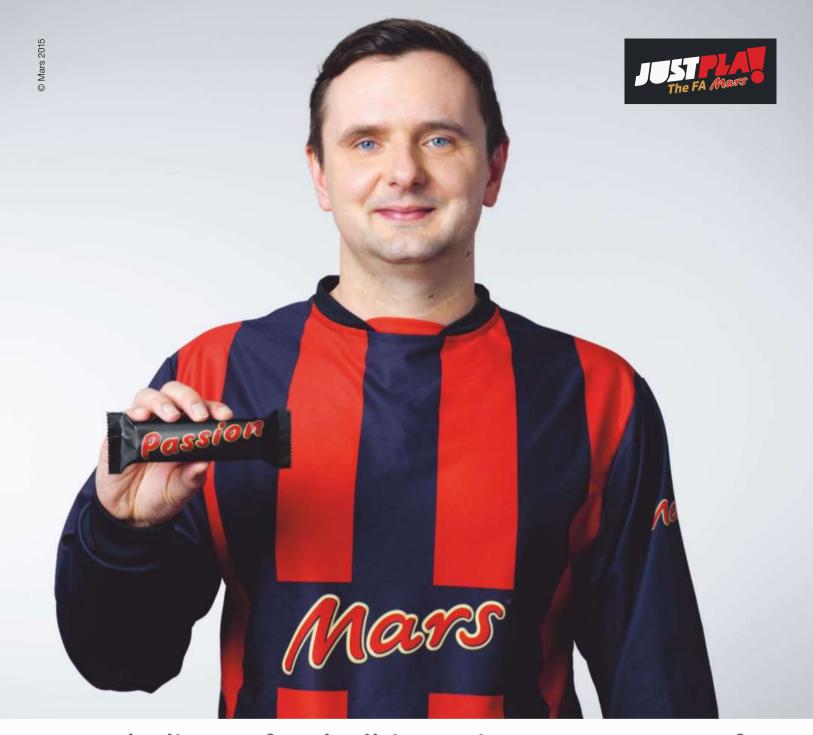
The wisdom of the NME archives

THIS WEEK

JARVIS COCKER lead singer of Pulp **September 23, 1995**

"There aren't really any new things to discover in life. We're not going to invent a new colour now. Everything else is your imagination. Use it well."





Mars believes football is an important part of a healthy, active lifestyle. And I'm onside with that.

Jon, Mars Factory Technician & Just Play Coach

Since joining Mars as an apprentice 13 years ago, Jon has always been a real team player. So we were more than happy to help him train to become a football coach in his spare time. Mars volunteers like Jon inspired us to work together with The FA to create the Just Play initiative five years ago. Our goal was to give a million adults the opportunity to get back on the football pitch and play with passion. Thanks to Jon, and hundreds of other newly qualified FA coaches, we managed to smash our target two years early. That's what we call winning.

With almost 300 centres nationwide, it's easier than ever to join a local kick-about. To get involved, search 'Just Play' online.











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